

Frederick County Office for Children and Families

2016 Community Needs Assessment



Frederick County Office for Children and Families
Home of the Frederick County Local Management Board
5370 Public Safety Place
Frederick, MD 21704

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Office for Children and Families Staff

- Leslie Barnes, Director
- Jennifer Barker-Frey, Program Evaluator
- Pat Fleet, Administrative Coordinator

Local Management Board Members

- Jenifer C. Winkler, MSW, LCSW-C (Chair)
Way Station, Inc.
- Shelly Toms (Vice-Chair)
Frederick County Family Partnership
- Dr. Monica L. Grant
Frederick County Citizens Services Division
- William Keefer
Department of Juvenile Services
- Martha Sprow
Frederick County Department of Social Services
- Chief Edward G. Hargis
Frederick Police Department
- Robin Inskeep
Frederick County Finance Division
- Dr. Barbara A. Brookmyer, Health Officer
Frederick County Health Department
- Jethro Reid
Frederick County Public Schools

- Robert A. Pitcher
Mental Health Management Agency of Frederick County, Inc.
- Miles A. Ward
Department of Human Relations
- Shannon S. Aleshire
Mental Health Association of Frederick County
- Linda Yale
Developmental Disabilities Administration
- Marsha Nelson-Duncan
National Cancer Institute at Frederick
- Stacy D. Wantz
YMCA of Frederick County Head Start
- Ralph L. Hertges, M.A.
Private Citizen
- Wayne A. Horrell
Private Citizen

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INTRODUCTION

Overview and Background

The Frederick County Office for Children and Families (OCF) is a department within the Citizens Services Division of Frederick County Government. The OCF seeks to create a more efficient and effective system of care for the children and families of Frederick County through:

- Developing service, family, community, and financial partnerships
- Designing goal-directed services that are client centered and family focused
- Targeting resources to families with the greatest needs
- Implementing a monitoring system to determine client and cost outcomes

The OCF is home to the Frederick County Local Management Board (LMB) which guides the OCF in governing, allocating resources, monitoring, and evaluating family services in the county. In 1990, Maryland General Assembly enacted legislature mandating that each jurisdiction have an entity, known as a Local Management Board, which would operate with the focus of improving results for children, youth, and families. By 1998, all twenty-four jurisdictions, including Frederick County, had an operating LMB.

The Frederick County LMB is composed of both private and public members. Private members can include parents, business leaders, private providers, and other citizen representatives while public members include the Frederick County Department of Social Services, Frederick County Public Schools, Frederick County Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Frederick County Health Department.

The mission of the OCF and LMB is to enhance the quality of life for children, youth and families in Frederick County, Maryland. This encompasses planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating a comprehensive, integrated human service delivery system for children, youth and families and building on their capacity to be self-sufficient, safe, and healthy.

As part of its efforts, the Frederick County Office for Children and Families (OCF) and the Frederick County Local Management Board (LMB) complete a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) every three years. The purpose of the CNA is to gather local data regarding the current needs of children, youth, and families in Frederick County, community strengths and areas for improvement, and available and needed programs, services, and resources. The findings of this assessment will be used to plan, develop, and implement services and strategies in Frederick County to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

In addition to outlining Frederick County's performance relative to the four strategic goals established by the Maryland Governor's Office for Children (GOC), this document will also discuss additional priority areas for Frederick County. Additionally, this document will discuss how the severity of those needs might vary within certain segments of the population.

Study Objectives

The overall intent of this study is to better understand, quantify, and articulate the needs of Frederick County children, youth, and families. Key objectives of this CNA include:

- Understand Frederick County's performance relative to each of Maryland's Eight Child Well-being Result Areas
- Understand Frederick County's performance relative to each of the Governor's Office for Children's four strategic goals
- Understand the challenges children, youth, and families face when trying to maintain and/or improve their health and well-being
- Understand where these populations turn for services needed to maintain and/or improve their health and well-being
- Understand what is needed to help these populations maintain and/or improve their health and well-being
- Prioritize the needs of the community and clarify/focus on the highest priorities

Summary Findings: Priority Areas

To achieve the study objectives both primary and secondary data were collected and reviewed. Primary data included qualitative information from web-based surveys as well as focus groups with the target population, including children, youth, parents, and service providers. Secondary data included public data on demographics, socioeconomic factors, education and workforce performance and opportunities, available resources, county rankings, and community safety.

Throughout this document, the OCF and LMB have focused on the following eight areas, four of which are related to the strategic goals of the GOC and four of which have been identified through the prioritization process discussed in this document:

Governor's Office for Children Strategic Goals

- Reduce the Impact of Parental Incarceration on Children, Families, and Communities
- Improve Outcomes for Disconnected Youth
- Reduce Childhood Hunger
- Reduce Youth Homelessness

Additional Priority Needs

- Bullying
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Transportation
- Awareness and Communication

A summary of the key findings for each of these eight areas are individually discussed below, with significantly greater detail provided in Chapter 3.

Impact of Parental Incarceration on Children, Families, and Communities

Although quantitative data are currently somewhat limited in relation to this goal area, it is quite apparent that incarceration of a parent has significant implications on not only the children and family, but the overall community as well. In fact, of those surveyed for this assessment nearly 100 percent acknowledged that they believed incarceration had at least some impact on children and families in Frederick County. That percentage represents the largest of all areas identified throughout this entire survey process.

One priority consideration for Frederick County going forward will be to develop, implement, and monitor measures that will allow it to track progress in this area. In the meantime, we do know that relative to the state and many of its peer counties Frederick performs well on the measure of incarceration rates among the adult population, and that rate has continued to trend positively in recent years.

Disconnected Youth

Disconnected youth is used to identify those individuals who are between the ages of 16 to 24 and are neither working nor in school. A significantly larger pool of quantitative

data are available related to this need area, and while Frederick performs well relative to peers across the vast majority of those indicators, including high school dropout rates and percentage of young adults in the labor force, Frederick has fallen behind in select areas related to middle school academic performance levels, which can serve as a leading indicator of future concerns among the 16 to 24 age group.

Those surveyed acknowledged that the issue of disconnected youth originates well before individuals reach age 16, with many citing an inadequacy of role models to mentor and positively influence the younger children of Frederick. In addition, it is important to note that the potential for disconnected youth appears to be a more significant issue among minority populations given the additional barriers to accessing available resources and educational opportunities that they face. Barriers such as the inability of parents to assist with homework or studying given limited understanding of materials was cited as a concern, in addition to increased levels of dual-working parent households, which can impact the level of parental involvement despite best intentions.

Childhood Hunger

Depending on the information one reviews you might obtain mixed opinions relative to how well Frederick County is performing in the area of childhood hunger. For instance, compared to the state Frederick has a lower portion of students receiving free and reduced school lunch, which could be considered a positive indicator given we assume that the remaining students are receiving adequate nutrition from other sources. Unfortunately, when we look at the percentage of food insecure children ineligible for assistance Frederick is higher than the state average, implying that a number of children are likely falling through the cracks.

It is interesting to note that only roughly half of the community members surveyed considered childhood hunger to be a significant problem in Frederick County. That finding, the quantitative data discussed previously, and specific references by a number of community leaders to childhood hunger being a “hidden” or misunderstood need imply that this goal area is one that Frederick County must continue to assess and communicate the importance and prevalence of.

Youth Homelessness

As is likely evident, many of the strategic goal areas and priorities are very much interrelated. Such is the case for youth homelessness, which impacts and can be linked to disconnected youth and childhood hunger. Unfortunately, although Frederick County performs well within many indicators of youth homelessness, the percentage of public school children who are homeless in Frederick County has increased in recent years and is currently higher than nearly every peer county.

Of those surveyed many cited a lack of affordable housing as a key concern for the youth of Frederick County, with many feeling that there is a general lack of affordable housing and transitional housing for older youth. While a number of resources are available for the homeless of Frederick County, it was noted that many existing shelters and housing programs are either for families or have a minimum age requirement that might leave certain groups of youth with minimal options for shelter if no family or friends are available.

Bullying

Bullying and its associated implications on the youth of Frederick County were noted as major concerns across all methods of data collection for this assessment. Specific to the available quantitative data, on measures related to bullying Frederick County scores worse than any of the other 20+ potential need areas assessed when compared to state and peer county benchmarks. It is important to note that recent trends do show improvement, but additional progress is needed within both middle and high school settings.

Of particular concern is the growing use of technology and social media, which has expanded the arena for bullying beyond just the school campus, making it much harder to control. In addition, many surveyed believe that recent increases in fighting and violence among the youth of Frederick County can be linked to social media taunting and bullying.

Mental and Behavioral Health

Similar to bullying, mental and behavioral health were identified as being a prevalent concern across all methods of data collection. One important distinction regarding this priority area is the fact that the youth of Frederick County are impacted by not only their own mental and substance abuse issues, but also by those of their parents or others living in their home. Given the potential for these issues to continue through various stages of development and the associated implications on the demand for other social services throughout one's lifespan, it is important for programs and services to identify those susceptible at a young age to provide them with the tools and support they need to improve.

Awareness and Communication

Often times the availability of resources to assist with meeting a need is not as much an issue or concern as the ability for those in most need to access those resources. This appears to be the case in Frederick County as the perceived lack of information regarding the types of services that are available is considered to be a significant barrier and need area. Specifically, when asked what barriers exist that make it difficult for

children and families in Frederick County to access the current delivery system, survey respondents selected “awareness of services/resources” more often than any other potential barrier.

This priority area is also a more acute need for many minority populations within Frederick County that might communicate in a different language or not have readily available access to the internet and other typical information sources. Lack of familiarity with the government and its role in helping residents was also mentioned as an issue that will need to be overcome. Some also expressed concerns about accessing services due to citizenship status and the associated fear that accessing needed services might cause them or their family members to be identified and taken from their family.

As services continue to be developed and expanded within Frederick County a clear and comprehensive communication plan will be necessary to help ensure that those most in need of services are aware of what is available. It will likely be necessary to ensure that this plan incorporate existing non-profit organizations throughout the community that might already have established themselves as a trusted resources for various population sub-groups. These organizations are already familiar with the respective cultures and can serve as an effective path for information transfer to those in need.

Transportation

Similar to awareness and communication, adequate transportation to available resources appears to be a significant barrier to access for many of those in need across Frederick County. Given the geographic size of Frederick County transportation is a significant concern for the most vulnerable residents. Lack of transportation, or transportation options that are infrequent or inconvenient, was cited by many as a problem in Frederick County. This concern not only impacts access to services, but also has implications on employment options for many in the community, particularly those that might not live in and around downtown.

Detailed Information

The remainder of this report includes the findings and additional supporting information collected and analyzed throughout this assessment process. Additional supporting data have been included within the extensive appendices, which include:

- A detailed demographic and socioeconomic profile of the county in Appendix 1;
- A summary of all quantitative data in Appendix 2
- A summary of all qualitative data in Appendix 3; and,
- A list of existing community resources and programs in Appendix 4.

CHAPTER 1 | METHODOLOGY

Study Design

A multi-faceted approach was utilized to assess the needs and concerns of children, youth, and families within Frederick County. Multiple sources of publicly available data along with diverse community input were incorporated in the study to paint a complete picture of the county's needs. Multiple methodologies, including ongoing community and stakeholder engagement, analysis of data, and content analysis of community feedback were utilized to identify key areas of need. Specifically the following data types were employed:

Primary Data

Focus groups, a web-based community survey, and a web-based key leader survey were utilized to engage and obtain feedback from those familiar with the needs that exist within the county. In addition, significant input and direction from the OCF and LMB were also obtained. Leveraging those sources, input from over 350 Frederick County residents was incorporated into the data collection and analysis component of the CNA.

Secondary Data

Key sources for quantitative data on Frederick County included multiple sources of public data related to demographics, socioeconomic factors, education and workforce performance and opportunities, available resources, county rankings, and community safety.

Study Limitations

This study utilized a broad range of data to assess the needs of children, youth, and families in Frederick County; however limitations in the data do exist.

Quantitative data are typically available at a lag time of one to three years from the data occurrence. One limitation in the data analyses process is the staleness of the data which may not depict the most recent occurrences experienced within the community. Given the staleness of some existing data, the OCF and LMB attempted to compensate for these limitations through the collection of qualitative data, including focus groups, web-based general community surveys, and web-based key leader surveys.

Additionally, gaps in information for particular sub-segments of the population exist. Many of the available data sets do not necessarily isolate low-income persons or certain minority groups. In attempts to compensate for the lack of these data, attempts were

made to include these sub-segments of the greater population through qualitative data gathered through focus groups.

Finally, this study has relied on community members and organizational leaders to provide their unique and representative knowledge of the needs of children and families in the community, which has both validated and augmented the data collected. Given the infeasibility of gathering input from every single member of the community, the community members and leaders that participated have offered their best expertise and understanding on behalf of the entire community. As such, the OCF and LMB have assumed that those that were surveyed and participated in focus groups accurately and completely represented their fellow residents; however, data to confirm this assumption are not available.

CHAPTER 2 | NEED PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

Although a large number of potential need areas have been analyzed throughout the development of this CNA, it is simply not feasible or appropriate for the OCF and LMB to apply significant resources to each and every area of need. To determine which needs should be priorities, the OCF and LMB reviewed outcomes and findings from this assessment and utilized an objective approach to estimate which areas of need are of greatest concern.

As mentioned previously, multiple methodologies were utilized to identify key areas of need. Each of these methodologies have been incorporated to not only measure and estimate the level of need for Frederick County children, youth, and families, but to also highlight key factors and conditions that are expected to have the greatest impact on those needs going forward. As review, these methodologies included the following:

Approaches Used
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing community and stakeholder engagement • Quantitative data analysis • Community focus groups • Community web-based surveys • Key leader web-based surveys

Leveraging the analyses and findings from those approaches, the OCF and LMB has condensed a list of over 100 potential needs down to the few select areas it believes to be the current priorities. Each potential need was analyzed against the others and prioritized based on a variety of different considerations, such as:

Components of Prioritization Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input received from multiple discussions with the Community Assessment Team; • Input received from focus group participants; • Input from received from web-based surveys completed by community leaders; • Input from received from web-based surveys completed by community members; • Variance of need metric(s) from Maryland's overall performance; • Historical trends; • Estimated gaps in current service delivery; and • Unique or isolated needs of population sub-segments.

The prioritization process included various methodologies based on the type of data collected and analyzed. These methodologies are discussed in detail below.

Quantitative Data Methodology

Nearly 100 individual data measures related to the Eight Child Well-being Result Areas were collected and analyzed. Data available for Frederick County data were compared to Maryland overall data and initial priority considerations were developed based on how Frederick County compared. Specifically, if Frederick County:

- Performed more than 5 percent worse than Maryland = Higher Priority
- Performed within 5 percent of Maryland = Lower Priority
- Performed more than 5 percent better than Maryland = Not a Quantitative Priority

This allowed the OCF and LMB to identify preliminary areas of need for Frederick County based on its performance relative to the state.

Qualitative Data Methodologies

Focus Groups

As discussed in more detail in Appendix 3, 115 Frederick County residents participated in the community focus groups. The results of each focus group session was summarized and assigned into categories based on common themes. Initial priority considerations were also developed based on the frequency of which a topic was discussed. If a topic of discussion came up in:

- Five or more groups= Higher Priority
- 3-4 groups = Lower Priority
- Less than 3 groups = Not a Qualitative Priority

This allowed the OCF and LMB to identify preliminary areas of need based on the direct input received from parents, youth, and organizations.

Web-based Surveys

In addition, data from the web-based surveys were used to understand initial priority areas. The following questions from both the general community and key leader surveys were included in the prioritization analysis:

- What do you consider to be the top three problems for children and families in Frederick County? Children 0-5? Children 6-12? Children 13-18? Young Adults 19-24?
- What barriers exist that make it difficult for children and families in your community to access the current service delivery system?
- If you could improve any aspect(s) of the current service delivery system, what would you chose?
- On a scale of 1 to 4 (with 1 being “meets no needs” and 4 being “meets all needs”) indicate how well these services and supports are currently meeting the needs of residents in Frederick County.
- Questions regarding parental incarceration impact, childhood hunger, youth homeless, disconnected youth, and bullying

The responses to these questions were employed and summarized to assist with the prioritization process. Specifically, if a response was:

- The most frequently chosen 3 responses = Higher Priority
- The most frequently chosen 4-6 responses = Lower Priority
- Remaining choices = Not a Qualitative Priority

This allowed the OCF and LMB to identify preliminary areas of need based on the input received from the general public and organizational leaders.

Preliminary County Priority Areas

It was difficult to prioritize based on each of the individual data measures because well over 100 data measures were analyzed and they are too granular. At the same time, the Child Well-being Result Areas are too broad given the variation of indicators and information that are incorporated within each of the eight areas. As a result, Potential Priority Area definitions were created to serve as a happy medium. Based on the aforementioned methodologies, these definitions included:

- Adequate Funding
- Affordability
- Awareness & Communication
- Bullying

- Childcare/After-School
- Disconnected Youth (GOC priority – Disconnected Youth)
- Education: 1st-12th (GOC priority – Disconnected Youth)
- Education: Pre-K
- Employment
- Gang Activity
- Health Insurance
- Housing/Homelessness (GOC priority – Youth Homelessness)
- Incarceration (GOC priority – Impact of Incarceration)
- Job/Life Training (GOC priority – Disconnected Youth)
- Mental & Behavioral Health
- Mortality
- Nutrition/Food Security (GOC priority – Childhood Hunger)
- Parental Involvement
- Transportation

Based on these Potential Priority Area definitions, the areas where the individual data measures within each definition were ranked as being higher priorities were identified. In addition to the Governor's Office for Children strategic goals, the following four additional priority areas specific to Frederick County were identified:

- Bullying
- Mental & Behavioral Health
- Awareness and Communication
- Transportation

CHAPTER 3 | PRIORITY AREAS

As mentioned previously, the OCF and LMB focused on both the four areas related to the GOC's strategic goals as well as four additional areas identified through the prioritization process. All eight of these areas are discussed in detail below.

Governor's Office for Children Strategic Goals – Frederick County Findings

In April 2015, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan tasked the Governor's Office for Children and the Maryland Children's Cabinet with four strategic goals that support his vision of statewide economic security. These goals include:

- Reducing the impact of incarceration on children, families, and communities;
- Improving outcomes for disconnected youth;
- Reducing childhood hunger; and
- Reducing youth homelessness.

The GOC believes that by coordinating efforts at the state-level and providing technical assistance to the LMBs statewide strategic initiatives can be implemented to achieve these goals. It is important to note that these four strategic areas were chosen as areas of focus for Maryland overall. Many underlying influential factors, such as geographic location, demographics, social, behavioral, and environmental factors, can impact the health and safety of a community. As such, the problems identified for the state may not be uniform throughout all twenty-four jurisdictions. As a result, the OCF and LMB worked to further assess these areas for Frederick County to understand how they are specifically impacting residents of this county in order to then determine the most appropriate methods for promoting change.

Strategic Goal: Reduce the Impact of Parental Incarceration on Children, Families, and Communities

As noted by the GOC, "the impact of incarceration on children, families, and communities remains an understudied and underserved area of [Maryland's] [s]tate polic[ies] and government service". However, it is estimated that on any given day approximately 90,000 children in Maryland have a parent under some form of correctional supervision, including parole, probation, jail, or prison. As a result, the GOC believes that the impact of incarceration on children and families is an important issue to understand.

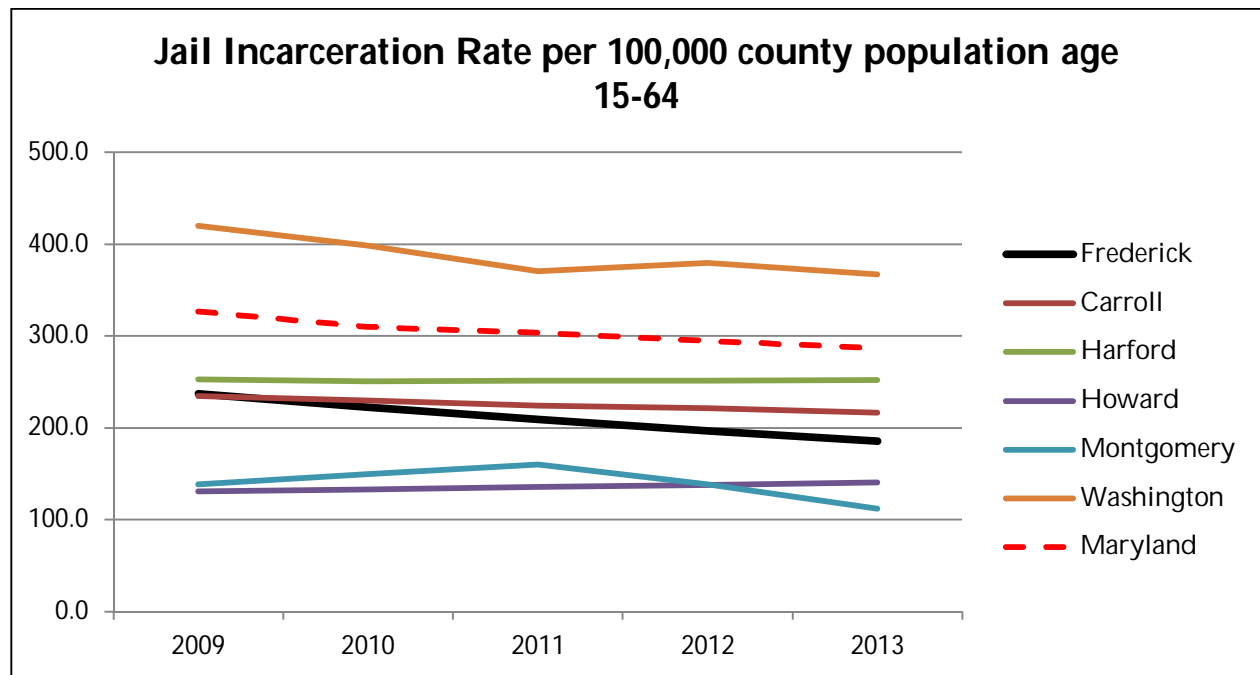
As noted in the article "Parents Behind Bars: What Happens to Their Children",¹ "[t]here is a substantial body of literature detailing the negative implications of

¹ <http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015-42ParentsBehindBars.pdf>

parental incarceration for child well-being. Research has linked parental incarceration to childhood health problems, including asthma, depression, and anxiety, acting-out behavior, grade retention, stigma, and, in adulthood, an increased likelihood of poor mental or physical health.” The impacts of incarceration may be difficult to measure due to other confounding factors that increase the likelihood of the aforementioned problems, such as poverty.

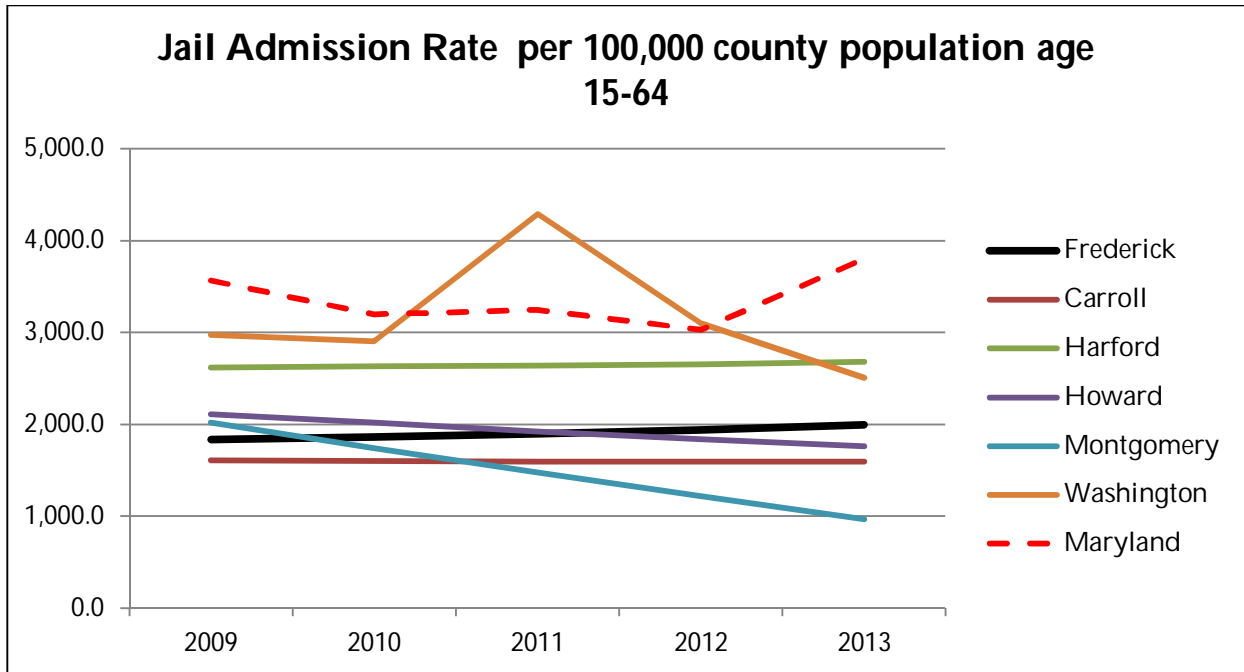
Due to limitations on existing data related to gauging the impact that parental incarceration has on children, families, and communities, the OCF and LMB found this to be a difficult area on which to gather adequate quantitative data. Of the data that were available, Frederick County performed better than Maryland on both measures as discussed below.

One data measure analyzed was the rate of jail incarceration of those aged 15-64 per 100,000 county population. Frederick County performed better on this metric than three of its five peer counties and performed better than Maryland overall. Howard, Montgomery counties have consistently had lower rates of incarceration than Frederick County. However, the jail incarceration rate for the 15-64 population in Frederick County has declined from 2009 to 2013.



Source: Vera Institute of Justice, Incarceration Trends.

Conversely, jail admissions rates for this same population have increased in Frederick County over the same time period. On this metric, Frederick County performs better than only two of its five peer counties but remains better than the state overall.



Source: Vera Institute of Justice, Incarceration Trends.

While Frederick County has experienced a positive trend over the last five years regarding incarceration, the negative trend relative to jail admission rates is evident that room for improvement exists. One limitation of this secondary data is that it does not demonstrate the impact that jail incarceration or admission has on the children and families of Frederick County. In an effort to obtain more information regarding the Governor's goal to reduce the impact itself, the OCF and LMB included questions specific to the impact of incarceration on children and families in both its general community and key leader web-based surveys.

When asked to rate the impact that incarceration has on children and families within the county, 80.4 percent of respondents of the general community survey stated that it has a significant impact and an additional 17.6 percent stated it has a slight impact. Also, nearly 96 percent of respondents believed that this issue has either remained the same or worsened over the last five years while more than half of respondents said that there are not sufficient programs or services available to help the children and families of those who are incarcerated.

"[INCARCERATION] [P]ROHIBITS BONDING BETWEEN PARENT AND CHILD AND CREATES A LACK OF AN ADULT ROLE MODEL FOR THE CHILD. THERE ARE SOME YOUNG CHILDREN IN THIS COUNTY WHO WILL NEVER SEE A PARENT OUTSIDE OF A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AND THESE AT-RISK CHILDREN MAY VERY POSSIBLY EXHIBIT BEHAVIORS AS THEY GROW OLDER WHICH WILL PLACE THEM IN THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM. THE ISSUES OF SEPARATION ANXIETY, ACTING OUT (IN ANGER OR EMOTIONALLY) ARE COMMON IN CHILDREN WHO ARE SEPARATED FROM A PARENT AND THIS CAN MANIFEST ITSELF IN POOR GRADES, BEHAVIORAL ISSUES, DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL, TENDENCY TOWARD AFFILIATING WITH GANGS (FOR ACCEPTANCE) AND EVENTUALLY INCARCERATION AS A TEENAGER OR ADULT..."

--GENERAL COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONDENT

The results of the key leader survey were very similar to those of the general community presented above. Just over 80 percent of the key leaders who responded to this survey stated that incarceration has a significant impact on children and families and an additional 18.3 percent stated that it has a slight impact. Over 96 percent of respondents believed that this issue has either remained the same or worsened over the last five years. Interestingly, the majority of respondents to the key leader survey said that they were not sure whether sufficient programs or services are available to help the children and families of those who are incarcerated. An additional 38.9 percent of respondents stated that there were not sufficient programs or services available.

"CHILDREN OF THOSE INCARCERATED FEEL MARGINALIZED. THEY ARE IMPACTED SOCIALLY, EMOTIONALLY, AND FINANCIALLY. THERE NEEDS TO BE MORE SERVICES TO PROVIDE COUNSELING AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTS TO CHILDREN WHO WANT TO VISIT THEIR INCARCERATED PARENTS..."

--KEY LEADER SURVEY RESPONDENT

As evidenced by the survey respondents, efforts to reduce the impact of incarceration on children and families are an area of need within Frederick County. More programs and services may be needed to address this impact. Given the breadth of the potential impacts that incarceration has on children and families, including educational, behavioral, social, and financial, many opportunities exist to help children and families

to cope with such issues. Additional awareness of existing resources and programs needs to be disseminated to both key organizations and the general public.

The [Maryland Children's Cabinet 2015 Strategic Direction and Implementation Plan](#) acknowledges that there are gaps in statewide services that support children and families who may be impacted by incarceration. However, existing statewide departments and offices offering services related to the impacts of incarceration include:

- Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Department of Human Resources
- Department of Juvenile Services
- Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
- Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
- Maryland State Department of Education

More specifically, Frederick County is home to the [Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership](#) (COIPP). Started in 2005 by a Frederick County resident, the organization quickly grew and is now supported by numerous other community non-profit agencies. The mission of the COIPP is to give children of incarcerated parents a voice in the community, in the schools, and in their family. A variety of resources and programs to help achieve this goal have been created, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Resource baggies
- Establishment of a library
- Support for specialized camps
- Development of children's book on detention center
- Weekend activities

In addition, the COIPP has created increased community awareness of the impact of incarceration on children through symposiums, community discussions, and the creation of a DVD. Further, caregiver support groups are offered to aid the families and caretakers of the children whose parent is incarcerated.

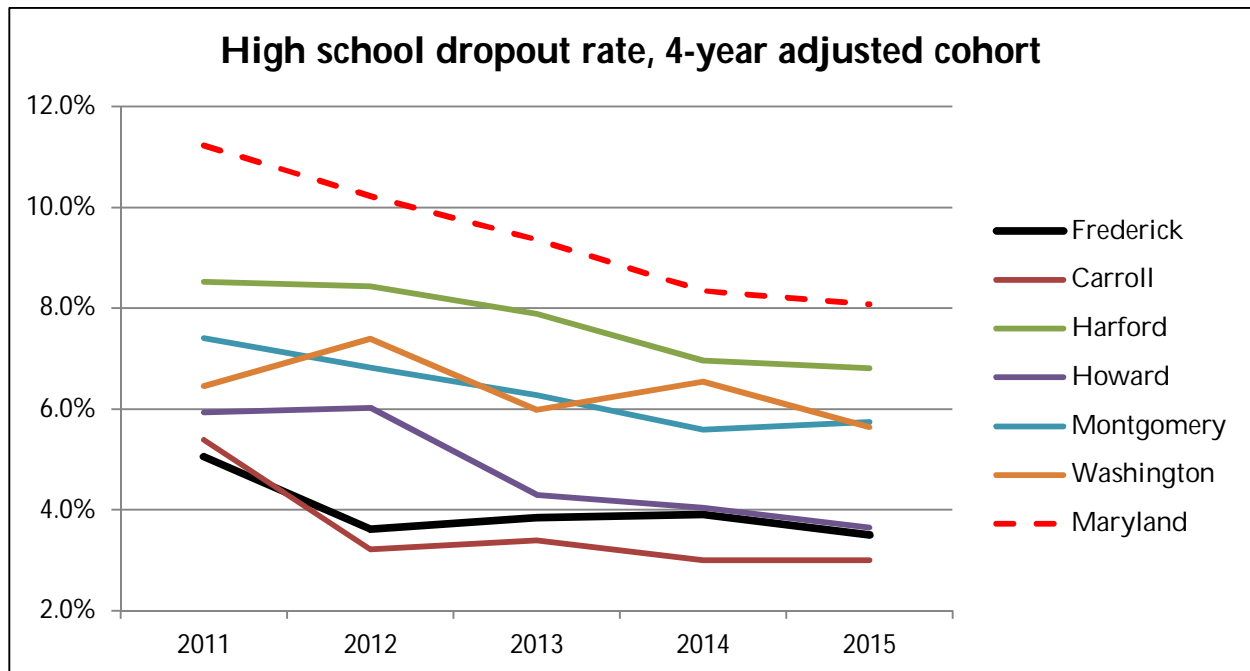
In summary, it is well known that parental incarceration has an impact on children; however, quantitative data gauging the significance and the depth of this impact are not readily available. Given the lack of data available, it is also difficult to measure progress in alleviating or minimizing the negative impacts that incarceration has on children but it appears clear that additional services and programs are needed to support these children and their families cope with these impacts.

Strategic Goal: Improve Outcomes for Disconnected Youth

The term disconnected youth is used to describe those who are between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither working nor in school. As described by the GOC, youth may be considered disconnected for a multitude of reasons and includes youth who may be actively seeking employment opportunities but have yet to be hired, youth who are transitioning from foster care or juvenile justice facilities, youth who are homeless, or youth who have returned from college to live in their parent's homes. As described in the [Maryland Children's Cabinet 2015 Strategic Direction and Implementation Plan](#), multiple strategies and approaches to reengaging disengaged youth are needed due to the variety of risk-factors and diversity of the population encompassed in the term disconnected youth.

Based on the existing data available, Frederick County is performing better than the state overall on three measures directly corresponding to the definition of disconnected youth – high school dropout rates, percentage of 16-24 year olds in the labor force, and the percentage of 16-24 year olds not in school and not working.

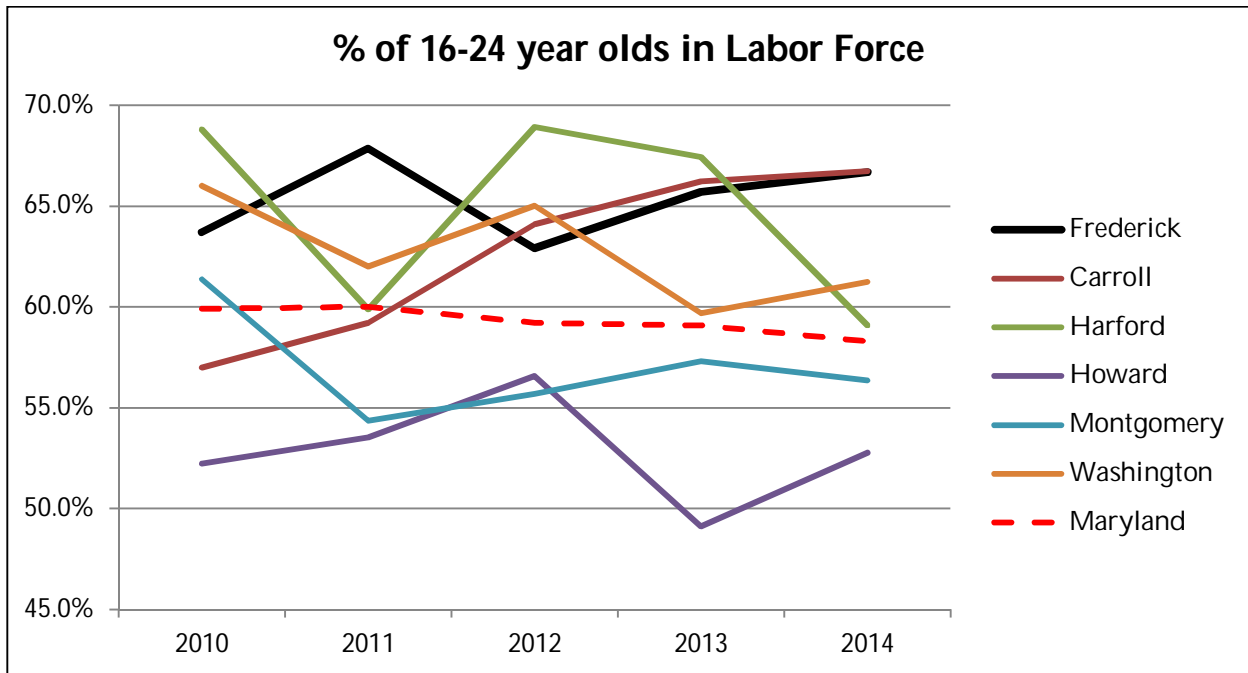
The high school dropout rate has declined in Frederick County from 2011 to 2015 and has consistently been less than half of the state dropout rate. Frederick County performs better than four of its five peer geographies relative to the high school dropout rate.



Source: Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Report Card.

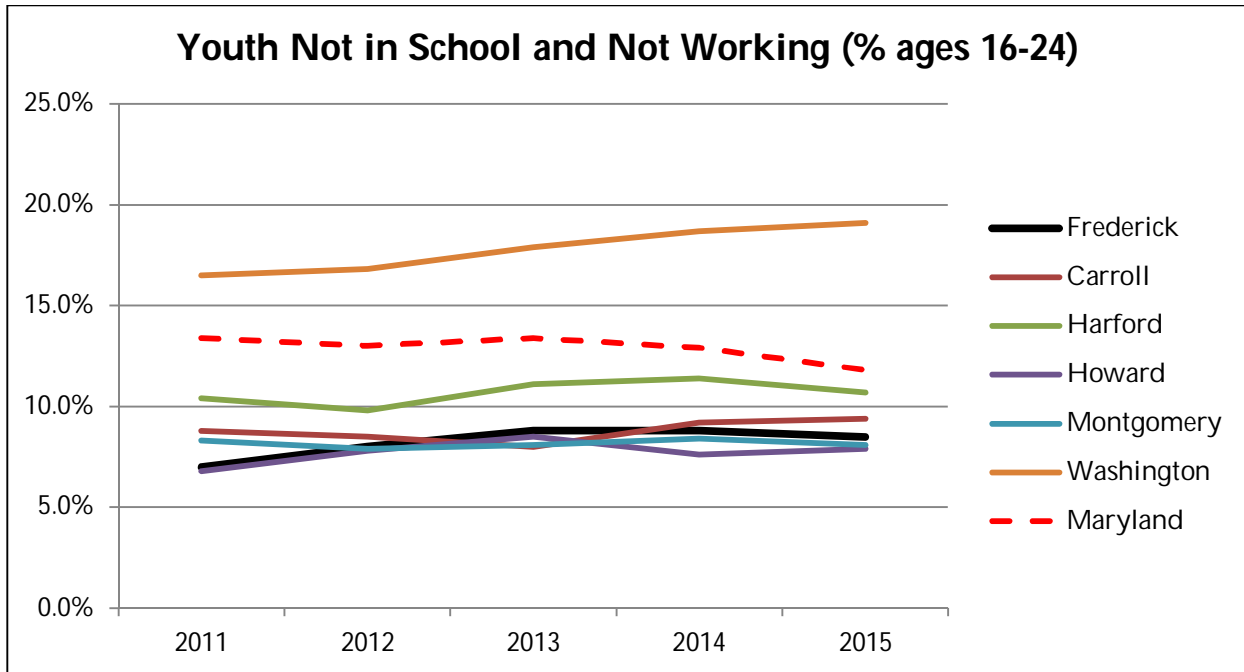
Frederick County has consistently had a higher percentage of its 16 to 24 age cohort in the labor force when compared to Maryland. From 2010 to 2014, the percentage of 16 to

24 year olds in the labor force has trended positively, increasing from 63.7 percent to 66.7 percent. In addition, Frederick County performs better than four of its five peer geographies.



Source: Governor's Office for Children.

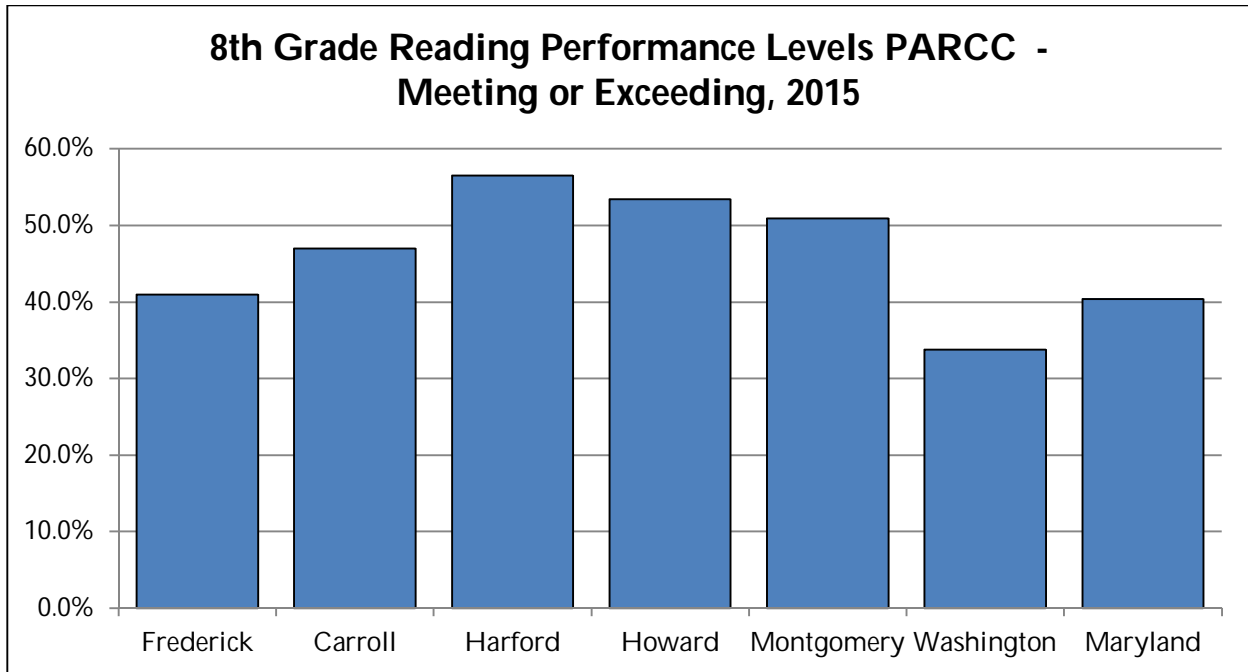
The only data measure analyzed related to disconnected youth where Frederick County has experienced a negative trend is the percentage of 16-24 year olds not in school and not working. The percentage of disconnected youth in Frederick County has increased from 7.0 percent in 2011 to 8.5 percent in 2015. At the same time, the statewide trend has improved with the percentage decreasing from 13.4 percent in 2011 to 11.8 percent in 2015. Despite the negative trend in Frederick County, it still performed better than two of its five peer geographies in the most recent year, but should be considered an area for continued monitoring given the recent trend.



Source: Opportunity Index

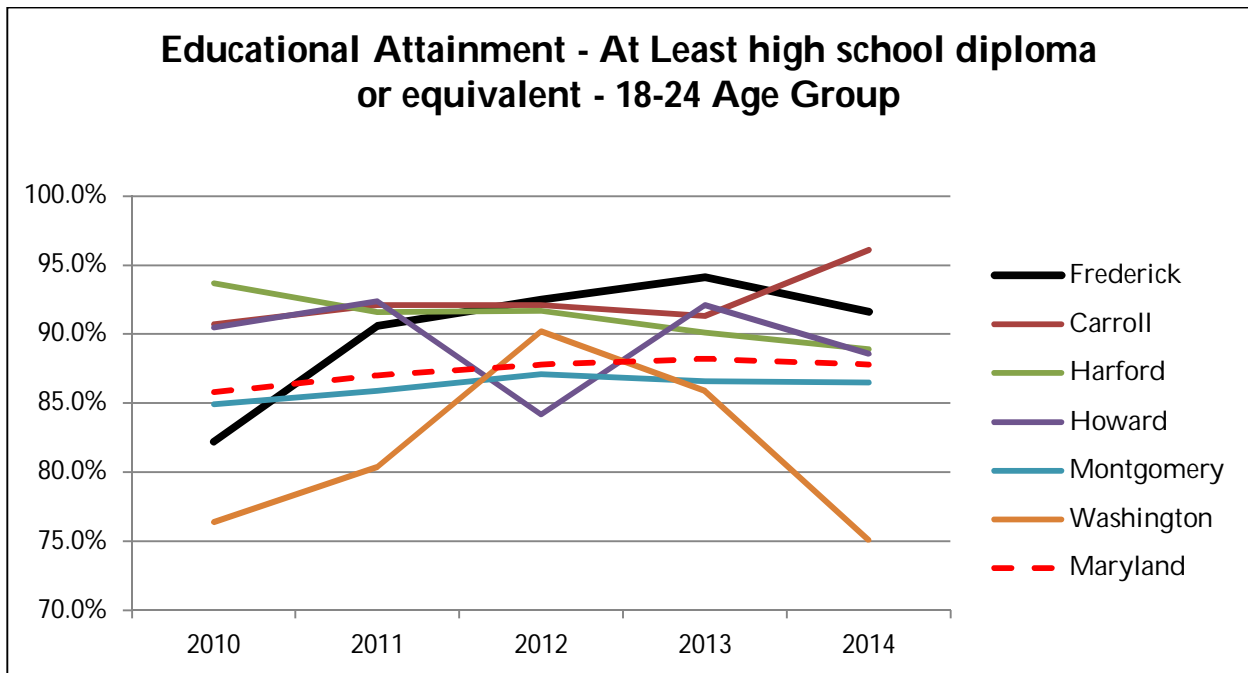
When compared to the state on measures that have the potential to impact the number of disconnected youth, Frederick County performs comparably or worse than Maryland on two measures. These measures include the percentage of 8th grade students meeting or exceeding the PARCC reading performance standard (worse than state) and the percentage of the percentage of 18-24 year olds with at least a high school diploma or equivalent (comparable to state). There are also many measures that have the potential to impact the number of disconnected youth for which Frederick County performs better than Maryland overall. Please see Appendix 2 for data tables depicting Frederick County's performance relative to the state and peer counties.

8th graders in Frederick County performed worse than their counterparts in four of its five peer counties on the PARCC reading exam and were just slightly better than the state average.



Source: Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center

In the most recent year, nearly 92 percent of the population ages 18-24 in Frederick County had at least a high school diploma or equivalent, making Frederick County better than four of its five peer counties and the state overall.



Source: Governor's Office for Children

The OCF and LMB also included questions specific to disconnected youth in both its general community and key leader web-based surveys. When asked to rate the concern residents have regarding disconnected youth within the county, 70.7 percent of respondents of the general community survey stated that the number of disconnected youth is a significant concern and an additional 26.3 percent stated it is a slight concern. Nearly 97 percent of respondents believed that this issue has either remained the same or worsened over the last five years. More than 62 percent of respondents said that there are not sufficient programs or services available to help reduce the number of disconnected youth.

"[IN] THE AREAS WHERE DISCONNECTED YOUTH ARE LOCATED, SERVICES THERE TO REACH THEM ARE ALMOST NON-EXISTENT."

--GENERAL COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONDENT

"...THERE IS LITTLE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION IN AREAS OF NEED, PARTICULARLY THOSE AREAS WHERE THERE IS MANY DIFFERENT CULTURES, HIGH POVERTY, AND LOW EDUCATION. TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS BARRIER ARE ENORMOUS."

--GENERAL COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONDENT

The results of the key leader survey were very similar to those of the general community presented above. 74.3 percent of the key leaders who responded to this survey stated that disconnected youth are a significant concern for residents of Frederick County and an additional 25.7 percent stated that this issue is a slight concern. Over 93 percent of respondents believed that this issue has either remained the same or worsened over the last five years. Interestingly, the majority of respondents to the key leader survey said that they were not sure whether sufficient programs or services are available to help the children and families of those who are incarcerated. An additional 34.5 percent of respondents stated there were not sufficient programs or services available.

In addition, when asked to identify the top problems faced by 19-24 year olds, 41.7 percent of respondents selected lack of jobs/vocational training/career development, 30.4 percent of general community survey respondents selected insufficient transitional programs/services for older youth, and 25.2 selected life skills. When the same question was asked relative to children ages 13-18, 32.8 percent selected the inadequacy of role

models to mentor and positively influence and an additional 22.4 percent noted the lack of transitional programming/services for children ages 13-18. The issue of inadequate role models to mentor and positively influence children and youth was also mentioned by 33.9 percent of respondents relative to children 6-12 years old, demonstrating that this problem begins early and is continued across the span of childhood and youth development. When asked where improvements are needed, 30.6 percent selected that there needs to be an increase in vocational programming for young adults. Lastly, support services for 18-21 year olds and mentoring services tied for the third worst score in the general community survey in response to a question asking how well specific needs of resident of Frederick County were being met.

Results from the key leader survey demonstrate that the problem of inadequate role models to mentor and positively influence children begins even earlier in life than noted in the general community survey. 17.6 of respondents noted this as an issue for children ages 0-5, 32.6 percent selected this issue for children ages 6-12, 33.1 percent for children 13-18, and 23.4 percent for young adults ages 19-24. In addition, when asked to identify the top problems for children ages 13-18, 24.6 percent selected insufficient transitional programs/services for older youth and 21.5 percent selected life skills. When the same question was asked relative to the young adult population (ages 18-24), 37.5 percent selected lack of jobs/vocational training/career development, 32.8 percent selected life skills, and 28.1 percent selected insufficient transitional programs/services for older youth. Lastly, when asked where improvements are needed, 23.8 percent selected that there needs to be an increase in vocational programming for young adults.

"COMMUNITY SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE. THE ISSUE IS HOW BEST TO PARTNER WITH SCHOOLS (I.E. GUIDANCE COUNSELORS AND SCHOOL SUPPORTS) TO CONNECT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO SERVICES AND JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES. COMMUNICATION IS VITAL AND LACKING."

--KEY LEADER SURVEY RESPONDENT

Focus group participants specifically discussed the need for more attention on school and education and the lack of guidance and support, particularly for kids who are just trying to find their place in the world, as areas of concern.

Numerous gaps in services were noted in the [Maryland Children's Cabinet 2015 Strategic Direction and Implementation Plan](#). However, existing statewide departments and offices offering services related to the impacts of incarceration include:

- Department of Human Resources
- Department of Juvenile Services
- Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
- Maryland Department of Disabilities

In Frederick County, [Family Partnership](#) provides educational and employment-related programs and activities for youth aged 16-24 who are facing a barrier or barriers to complete a high school education and/or engaging in gainful employment, through partnerships with Frederick Community College, Frederick County Virtual School, and Frederick County Workforce Services. Services include the following:

Education Services

- GED classes provided on-site through a partnership with Frederick Community College Adult Education program
- High school classes provided on-site through Frederick County Virtual School
- Tutoring and study skills provided individually or in small groups

Employment Services

- Occupational and entrepreneurial skills training
- Paid and unpaid work experiences, including internships and job shadowing
- Career Assessments and goal setting
- Job readiness and career exploration workshops

Supportive Services

- Adult mentoring
- Child care
- Transportation
- Comprehensive guidance and counseling
- Follow up services
- Leadership development opportunities, which may include community service and peer-centered activities
- Counseling – mental health referrals and limited fee coverage
- Service Coordination/Case Management
- Post-Secondary Information and Assistance

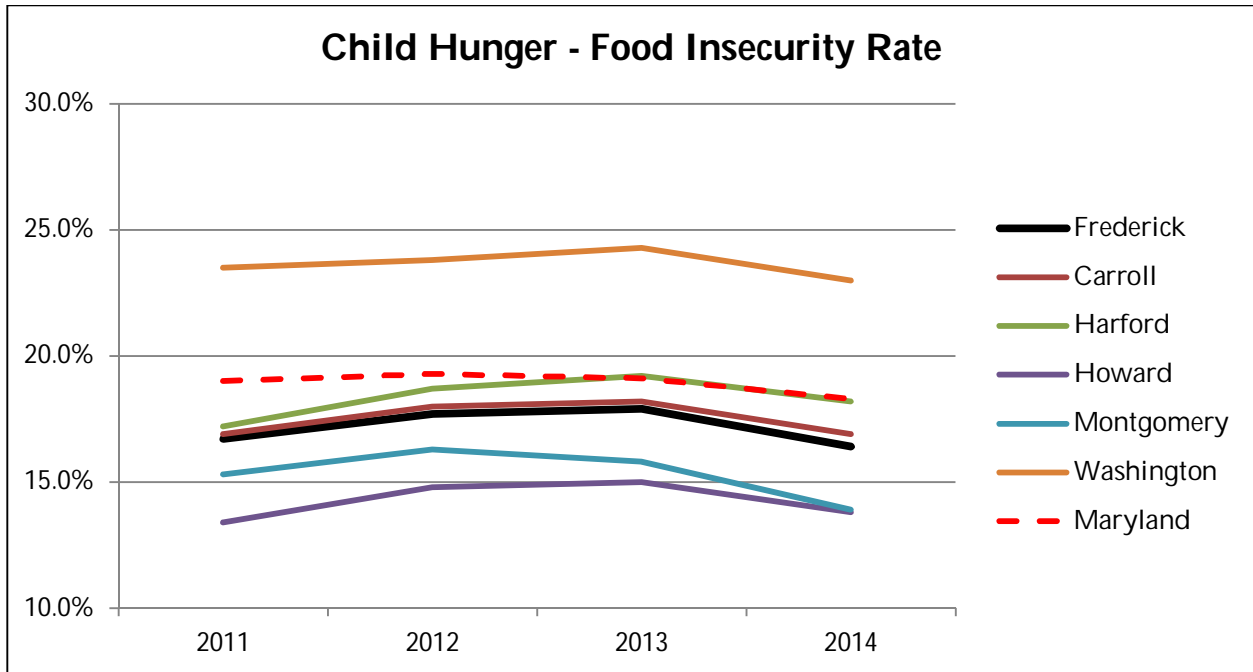
In summary, Frederick County has room for improvement regarding the percentage of youth not in school and not working, as well as data measures that have the potential to increase the number of disconnected youth. Ensuring that services aimed at reducing disconnected youth continue to be offered is important, but additional efforts to ensure that youth are aware of and connected to these services is critical.

Strategic Goal: Reduce Childhood Hunger

Childhood hunger has numerous negative impacts and side-effects on childhood development, health status, school performance and attendance, and behavioral issues. Many of these issues impacts can last through the lifetime further necessitating the need for early interventions to ensure adequate nutrition. In 2008, the GOC and Share Our Strength, a national non-profit, launched the [Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland](#). This Partnership seeks to connect more children with access to healthy foods, particularly through federal nutrition and school-based programs.

Based on the existing data available, Frederick County is performing better than the state overall on six measures – the childhood food insecurity rate, the percentage of children eligible for free/reduced price lunch, the percentage of students receiving free and reduced meals, the percentage of households receiving SNAP benefits, the percentage of middle school youth eating breakfast all seven days of the week, and the percentage of high school youth eating fruit/drinking 100 percent fruit juice at least once per week. However, Frederick County is performing worse than Maryland on four measures - the percentage of food insecure children ineligible assistance, the percentage of high school youth eating vegetables three or more times per week, the rate of SNAP-authorized food stores, and the rate of WIC-authorized food store. Given the large number of data measures related to childhood hunger, some are discussed below while the data for other measures are included in Appendix 2.

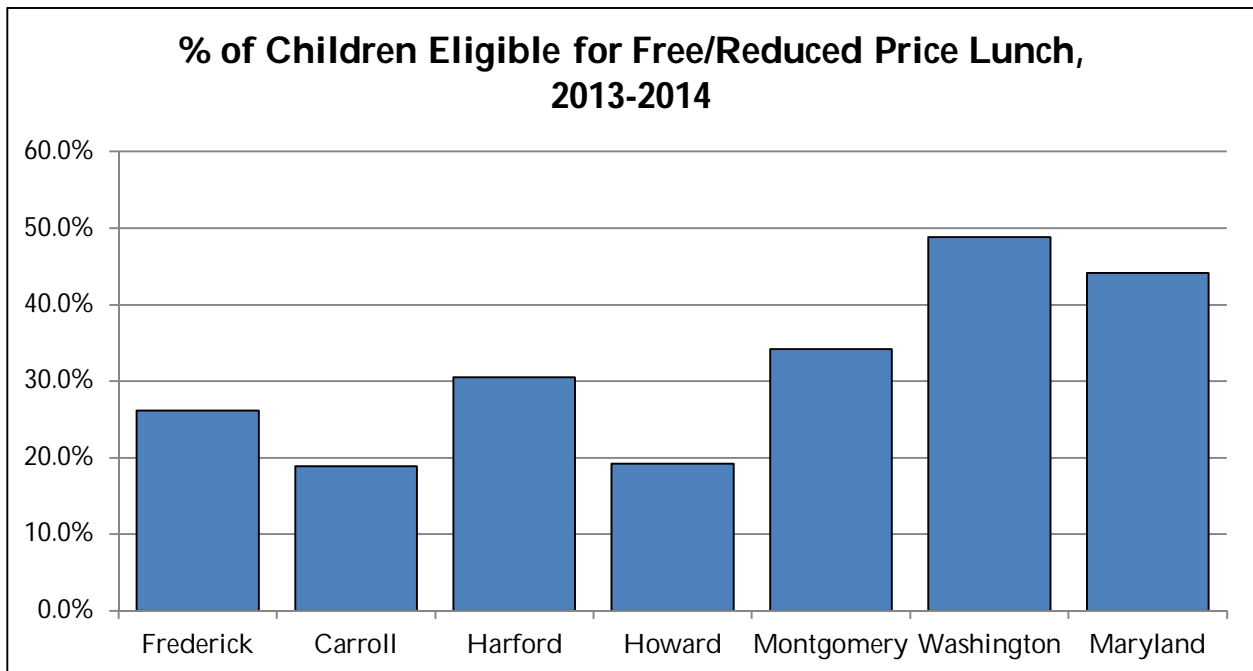
As shown in the following graph, the rate of food insecurity among children is lower in Frederick County than the state overall.



Note: Food insecurity refers to USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food insecure children are those children living in households experiencing food insecurity.

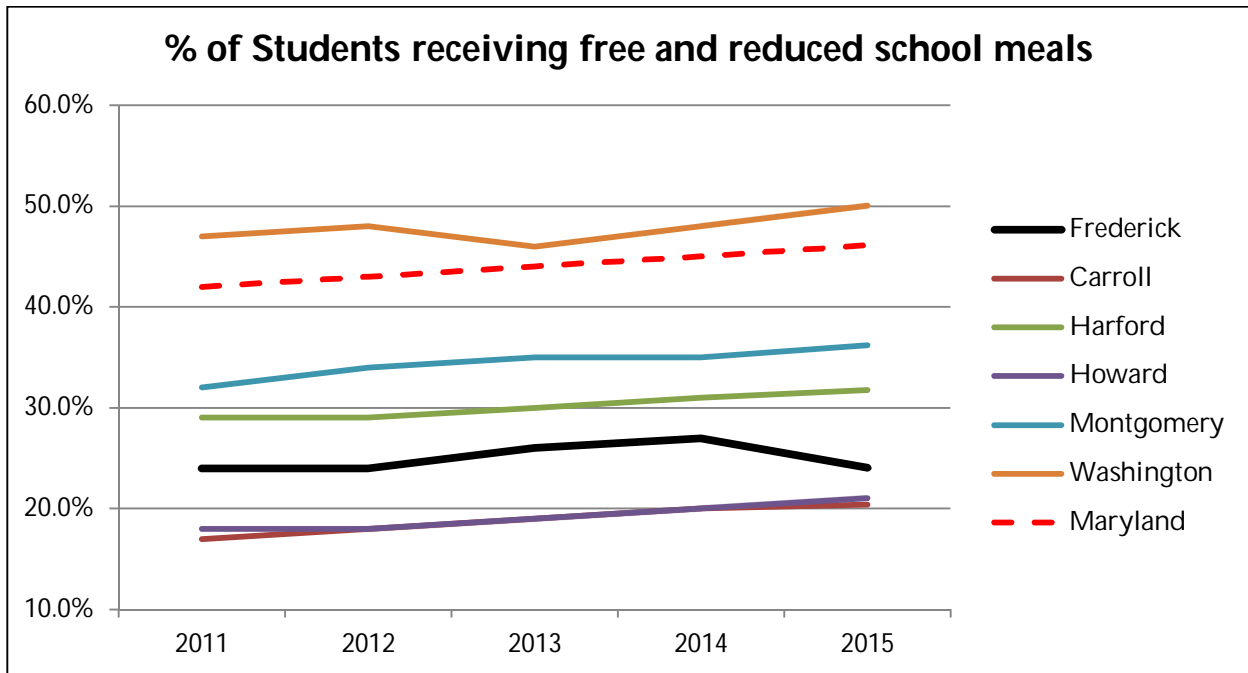
Source: Feeding America.

As shown below, Frederick County has a lower percentage of children eligible for free and reduced lunch than the state and three peer geographies.



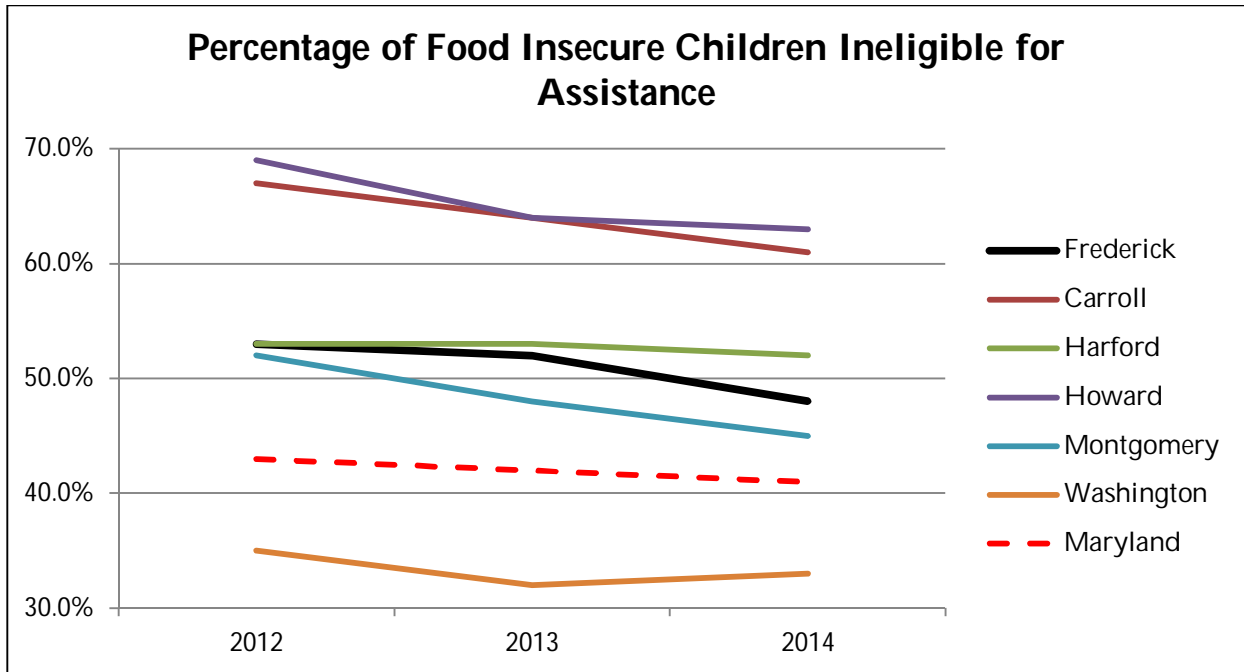
Source: Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center.

In addition, Frederick County has a lower percentage of children receiving free and reduced price school meals than Maryland and three peer geographies.



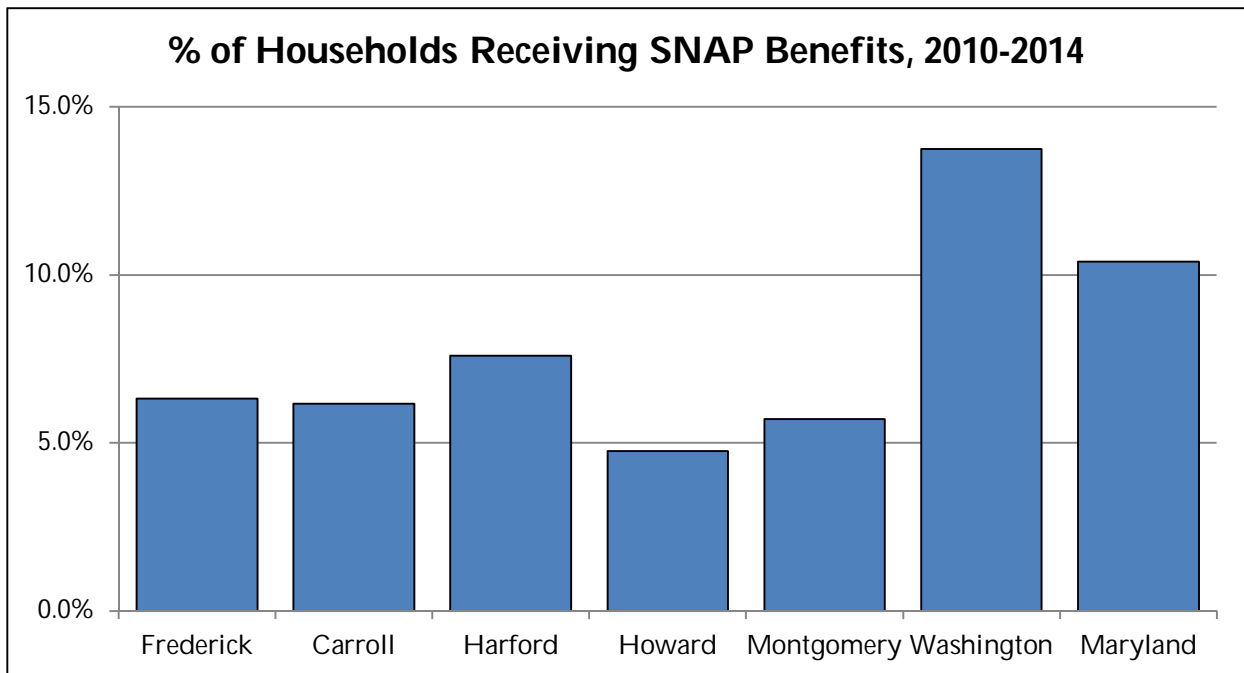
Source: Community Commons.

While having lower percentages of children eligible for and receiving free and reduced price lunch could in fact be a positive outcome in Frederick County it is actually the opposite as the percentage of food insecure children ineligible for assistance is higher than the state average. Frederick County is experiencing a positive trend related to this measure as the percentage ineligible for assistance has declined over recent years as shown in the chart below.



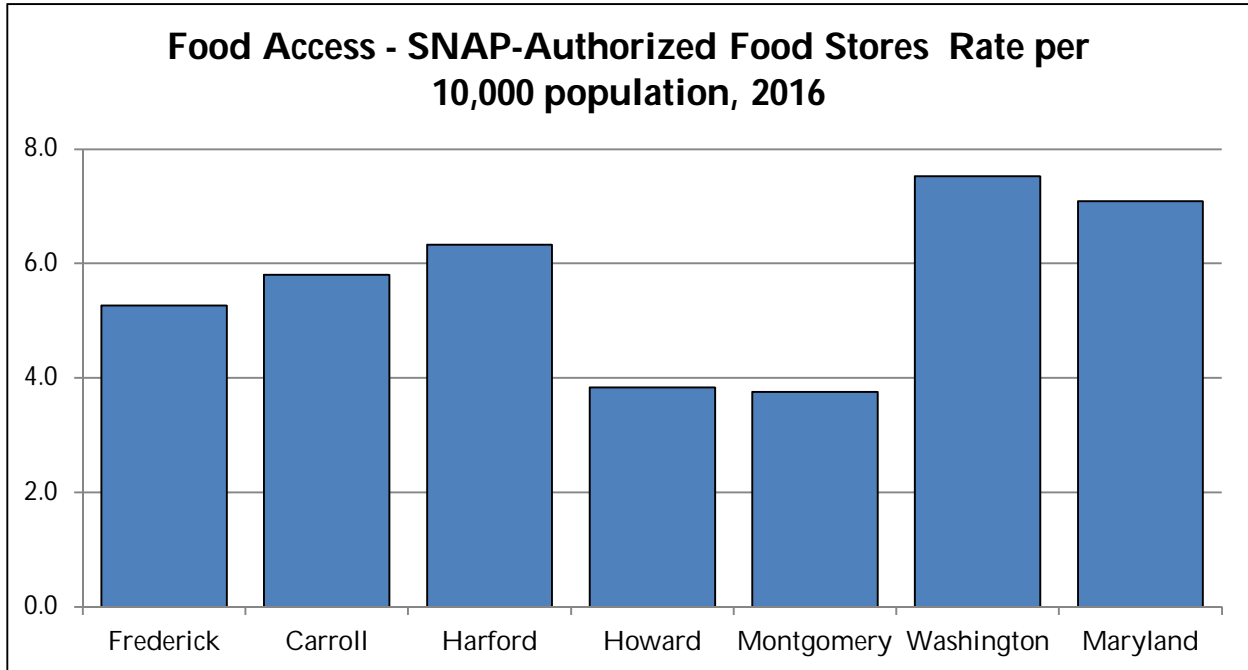
Source: Feeding America.

Similarly while the percentage of households receiving SNAP benefits in Frederick County is lower than the state overall, as shown below, the positive performance on this measure does not mean that childhood hunger related to SNAP benefits does not exist.



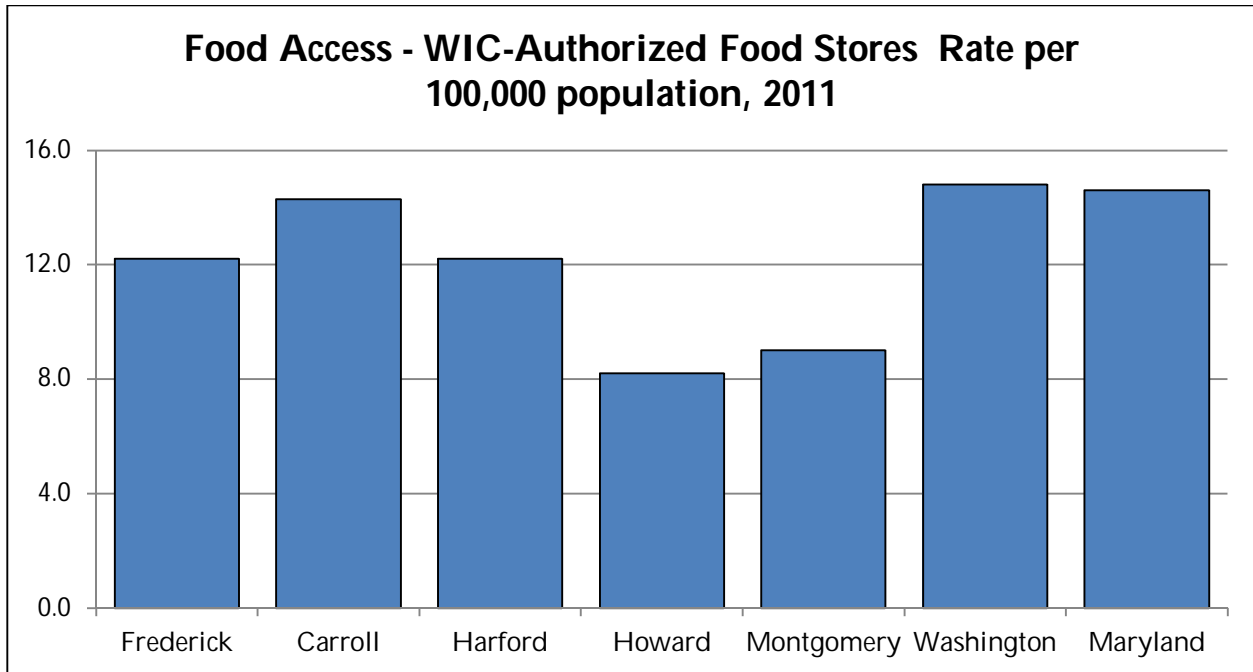
Source: Community Commons.

As demonstrated in the chart below, when analyzing SNAP-authorized food stores as a rate per 10,000 population, Frederick County is much lower than the state. As a result, access to stores that are authorized to accept SNAP benefits may be more difficult to access in Frederick County than the state and other peer geographies.



Source: Community Commons.

A similar access issue may exist for residents of Frederick County relative to WIC-authorized food stores when compared to the state and two of its peer counties.



Source: Community Commons.

When asked to rate the significance of childhood hunger within the county, 52.0 percent of respondents of the general community survey stated that childhood hunger is a significant problem and an additional 42.0 percent stated it is a slight problem. Nearly 78 percent of respondents believed that this issue has either remained the same or worsened over the last five years. 35.1 percent of respondents said that there are not sufficient programs or services available to help reduce childhood hunger while an additional 35.1 percent said they were unsure whether sufficient programs or services are available.

"THE INCREASING NEED FOR THE BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK PROGRAM SPEAKS VOLUMES."

--GENERAL COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONDENT

Nearly 60 percent of the key leaders who responded to this survey stated that childhood hunger is a slight problem in Frederick County and an additional 39.5 percent stated that this issue is a significant problem. Nearly 82 percent of respondents believed that this issue has either remained the same or worsened over the last five years. Interestingly, 42.5 percent of respondents to the key leader survey said that they were not sure whether sufficient programs or services are available to help reduce

childhood hunger. An additional 34.2 percent of respondents stated that are sufficient programs or services available.

"THERE IS A LOT OF CHILDHOOD HUNGER THAT IS "HIDDEN". FOR EXAMPLE, A FAMILY MEMBER LOSES HIS OR HER JOB, IS UNABLE TO PAY THEIR MORTGAGE BUT IS ABLE TO LIVE IN THE HOME AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. FROM THE OUTSIDE EVERYTHING SEEM FINE – BUT IN ACTUALITY THERE ARE FAMILIES LIVING IN HOMES WITH NO UTILITIES AND NOT ENOUGH FOOD TO EAT. IF THE CHILD IS NOT YET IN SCHOOL AND [THE] FAMILY EITHER DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO ACCESS SERVICES OR IS TOO HUMILIATED TO ASK FOR HELP – IT MAY NEVER COME TO ANYONE'S ATTENTION."

--KEY LEADER SURVEY RESPONDENT

"THE TERM "HUNGER" IS MISLEADING. ALTHOUGH MANY CHILDREN MAY NOT BE GOING HUNGRY, THEY ARE CERTAINLY A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER WHO ARE NOT EATING A HEALTHY DIET BECAUSE HEALTHY FOOD TENDS TO COST MORE."

--KEY LEADER SURVEY RESPONDENT

Focus group participants also relayed concerns regarding food and adequate nutrition through their discussions of the need in Frederick County.

Current statewide efforts to address childhood hunger are led by the Secretary of the Department of Human Resources and the Superintendent of the Maryland State Department of Education. These services include:

- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
 - At-Risk, After School Snack Program
 - At-Risk, After School Supper Program
- Summer Food Service Program
- National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs
- Food Supplemental Program

The [Frederick Community Action Agency](#), a federally designated Community Action Agency for Frederick County, operates a Foodbank Program that provides a three-to-five day supply of food to those in need. This program serves 600 to 800 households each month. In addition, the Soup Kitchen Program serves dinner seven nights a week to anyone in need of a hot, nutritious meal.

The [Frederick Rescue Mission](#) served over 137,000 meals and accommodated 82,206 visits to its grocery aisle in 2015. The Mission is currently in the process of constructing a new food distribution center that is expected to open in the fall of 2016.

In summary, food insecurity, access to food programs, and ensuring nutritional options were noted as important issues related to childhood hunger. Of the GOC'S four strategic goals, survey respondents were the most likely to agree that there are sufficient programs or services available to help to reduce childhood hunger when compared to the other strategic goals; however, ensuring that children receive healthy, nutrient rich foods was cited as an area for continued improvement.

Strategic Goal: Reduce Youth Homelessness

The GOC selected youth homelessness as a strategic goal in response to the increased prevalence of homeless youth in Maryland over recent years. However, there is no standard definition of youth homelessness in Maryland which makes it difficult to identify trends and track progress related to implemented strategies and programs. The data by which the GOC defines youth homelessness relates to those who are between the ages of 14 and 25 who are unaccompanied and homeless. While the Children's Cabinet recognizes that the term "unaccompanied homeless youth" is used in reference data related to homeless youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian and who are between the ages of 14 and 25, for purposes of its [2015 Strategic Direction and Implementation Plan](#), the Children's Cabinet defines homeless youth as "those individuals under the age of 25 who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; this includes those living in motels, hotels, camping grounds emergency or transitional shelters, cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, and bus or train stations for whom it is not possible to live with their parent guardian or relative and have no other safe alternative living arrangement" and the strategies addressed in its plan are for children and youth of all ages.

As noted by the GOC, this population is "more likely to become disconnected and socially disengaged, at risk of physical and sexual abuse, and reports higher rates of mental, behavioral, and physical health issues than their peers".

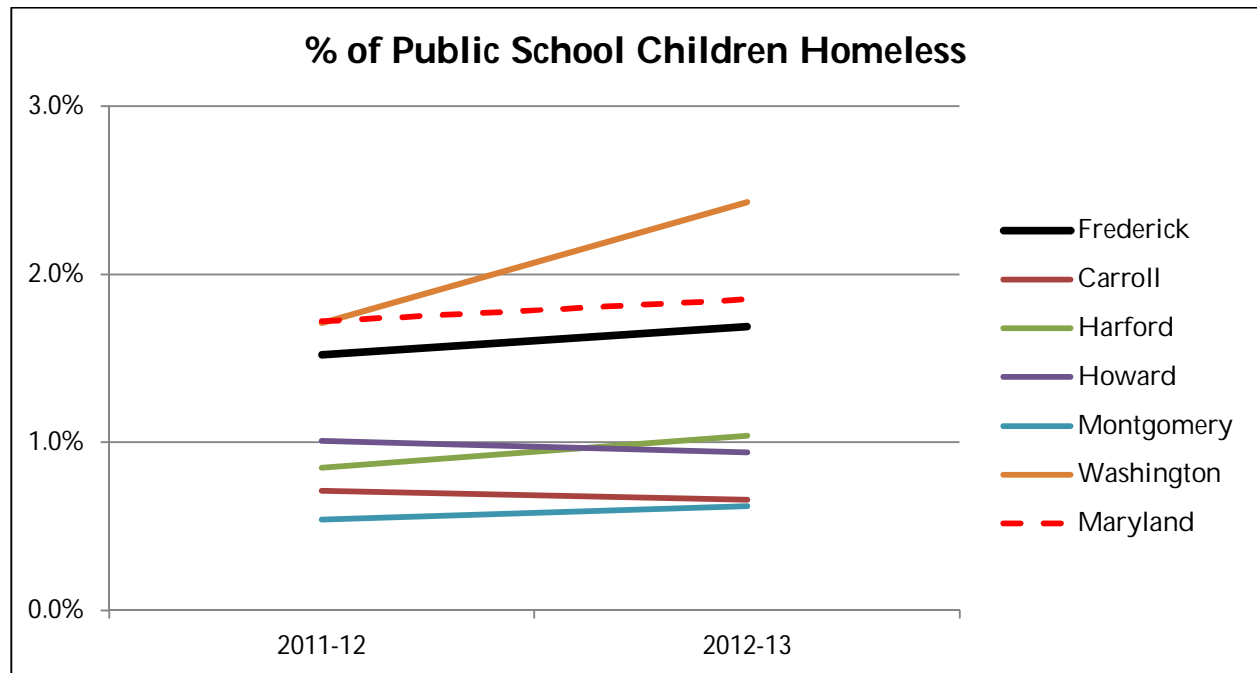
Similar to disconnected youth, the reasons why youth may be homeless vary greatly. As noted by the GOC reasons often include "an unsafe home environment due to domestic violence, parental addiction, or family discord due to sexual orientation or gender identity; transition from systems involvement (detention, foster care, or other institutional placements); family poverty; undocumented status; and lack of affordable housing".

Based on the existing data available, Frederick County is performing better than the state overall on five measures related to youth homelessness, including:

- The percentage of public school children who are homeless;
- The percentage of middle school youth who lived away from parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during the past year;
- The percentage of middle school youth who usually slept at a friend's, relative's or stranger's home at night during past year;
- The percentage of high school youth who lived away from parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during the past year; and,
- The percentage of high school youth who usually slept at a friend's, relative's or stranger's home at night during past year.

However, Frederick County performs worse than Maryland relative to the percentage of unaccompanied homeless youth ages 18 to 24 who are sheltered.

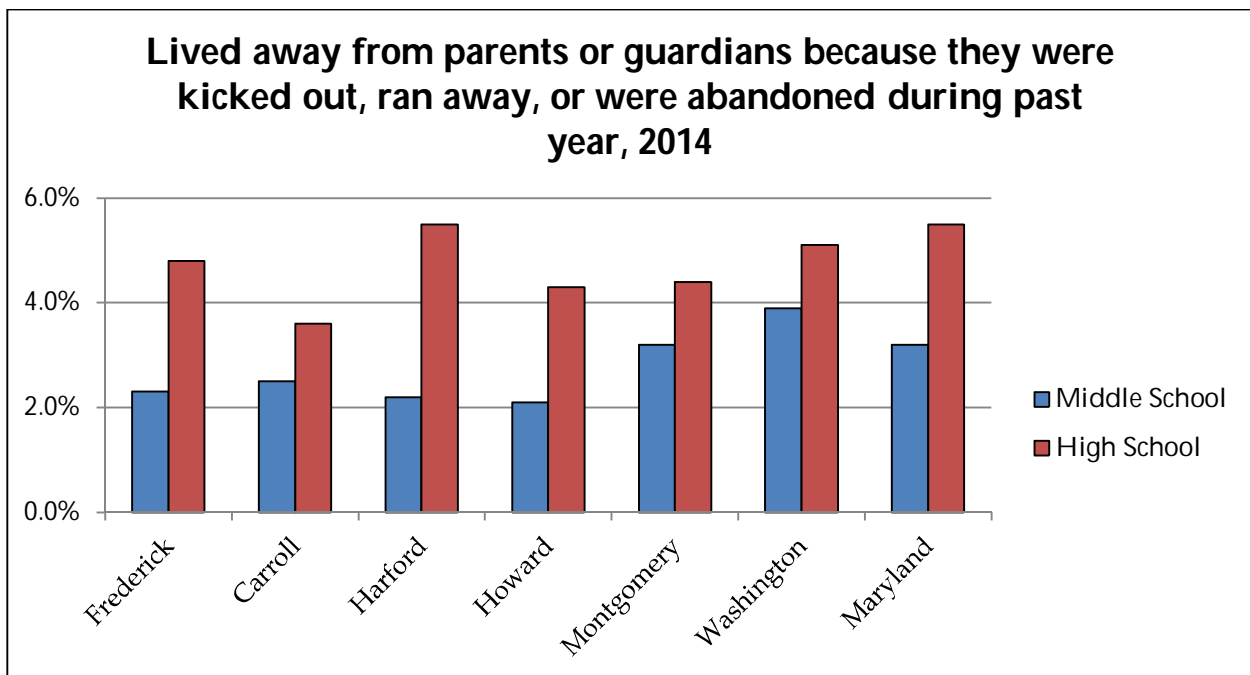
As noted previously, Frederick County has a lower percentage of children enrolled in the public school system who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or who are awaiting foster-care placement than Maryland overall. However, the percentage of public school students who are homeless in Frederick County has increased and is only better than one of its five peer counties.



Source: Governor's Office for Children.

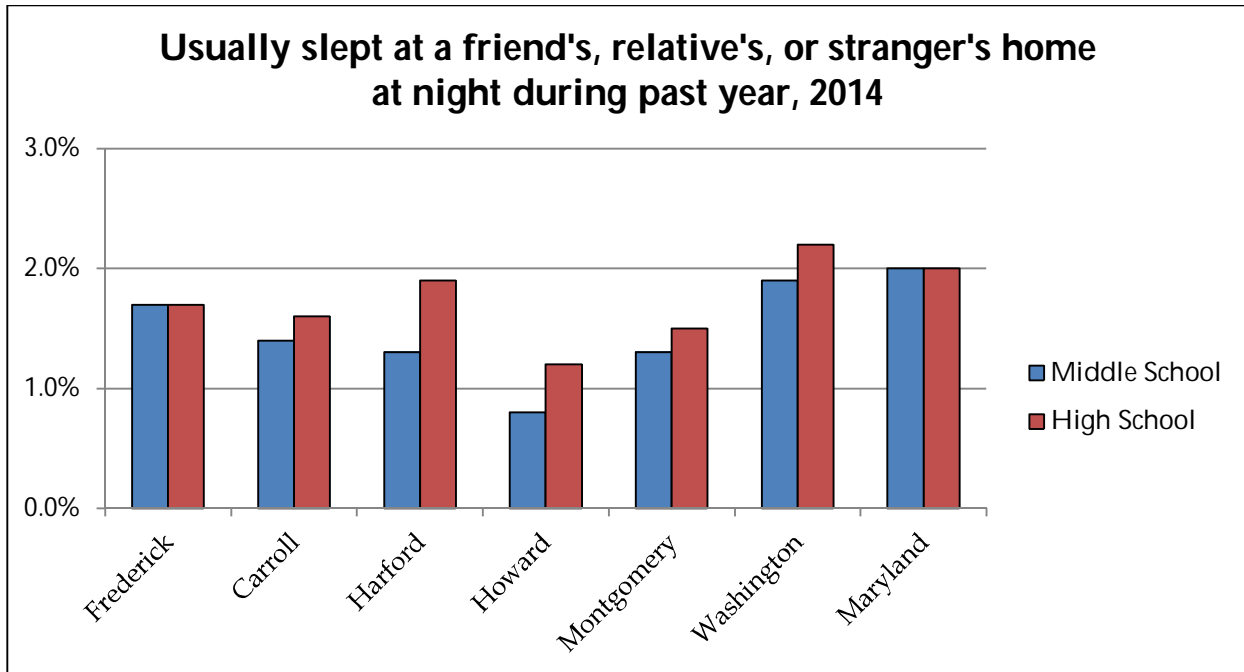
The most recent Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2014) included questions related to homelessness for the first time. Data were collected for both middle and high school students on the following measures: lived away from their parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned (in the past year); and usually slept in a friend's, relative's, or stranger's home at night (during the past year).

As shown below, 2.3 percent of middle school youth in Frederick County lived away from parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during past year compared to 4.8 percent of high school students in Frederick County. Frederick County's middle school percentage is better than three of its peer counties and the state overall while its high school percentage is better than two peer counties and Maryland.



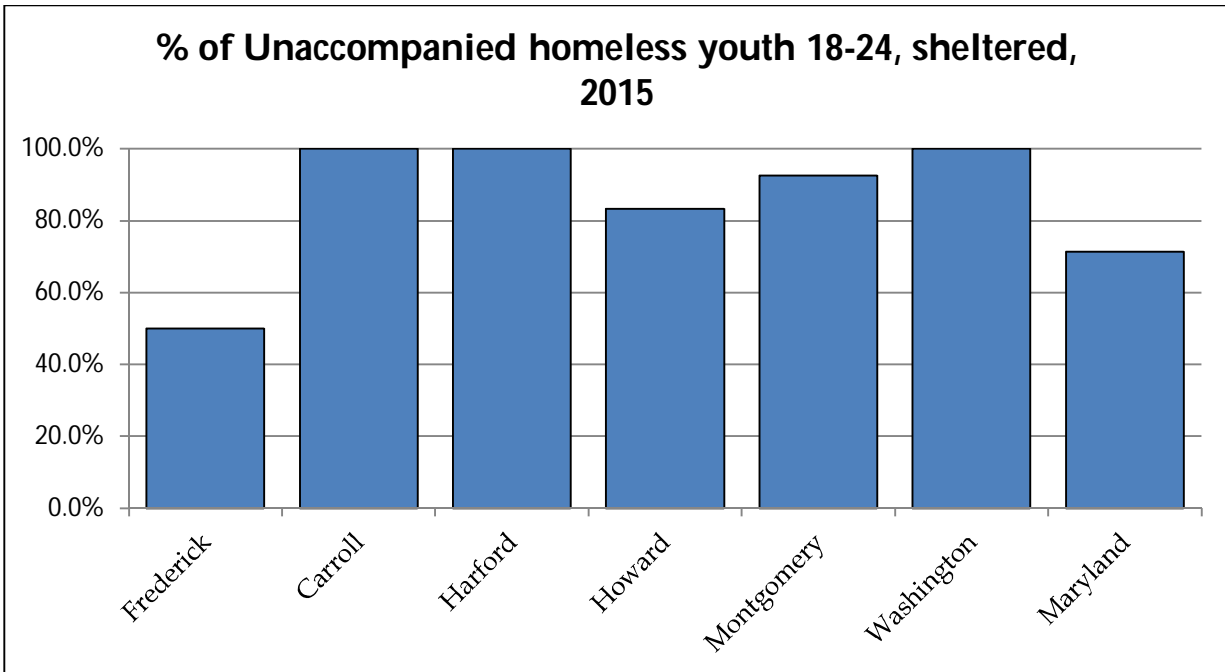
Source: 2014 Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

As shown below, 1.7 percent of both middle school and high school youth in Frederick County usually slept at a friend's, relative's, or stranger's home at night during past year. Frederick County's middle school percentage is better than one of its peer counties and the state overall while its high school percentage is better than two peer counties and Maryland.



Source: 2014 Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

The most room for improvement for Frederick County as compared to the state overall exists relative to the percentage of unaccompanied homeless youth ages 18 to 24 who are sheltered. Of Frederick County's unaccompanied homeless youth ages 18 to 24 in 2015, only half were sheltered compared to 71.4 percent of Maryland's homeless youth of the same age. Frederick County had the lowest percentage of its unaccompanied homeless youth sheltered when compared to all peer counties and the state overall.



Source: 2015 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Point-in Time Data.

When asked to rate the significance of youth homelessness within the county, 57.6 percent of respondents of the general community survey stated that youth homelessness is a significant problem and an additional 39.4 percent stated it is a slight problem. Nearly 98 percent of respondents believed that this issue has either remained the same or worsened over the last five years. Just over half of respondents said that there are not sufficient programs or services available to help reduce youth homelessness while an additional 37.5 percent said they were unsure whether sufficient programs or services are available.

"THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM. OVER THREE YEARS THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS FCPS STUDENTS HAS RISEN FROM 600 TO 800 TO NEARLY 1,000. [IT'S] UNACCEPTABLE FOR OUR COMMUNITY TO ALLOW EVEN ONE CHILD TO BE HOMELESS."

--GENERAL COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONDENT

"...MANY OF THE HOMELESS YOUTH ARE UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH WHO COME TO LIVE WITH RELATIVES OR ANYONE WHO WOULD TAKE THEM. THEY ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR HOUSING AND CANNOT AFFORD THE RENT IN FREDERICK."

--GENERAL COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONDENT

Half of the key leaders who responded to the survey stated that youth homelessness is a significant problem in Frederick County and an additional 49.1 percent stated that this issue is a slight problem. Approximately 93 percent of respondents believed that this issue has either remained the same or worsened over the last five years. Interestingly, nearly half of respondents to the key leader survey said that they were not sure whether sufficient programs or services are available to help reduce youth homelessness. An additional 42.9 percent of respondents stated that there are not sufficient programs or services available.

Respondents to both the general community and key leader surveys mentioned a lack of affordable housing as being a top problem for children ages 0 to 5, children ages 6 to 12, and young adults ages 19 to 24. An improved response to the housing and homeless crisis was noted as an area needing improvement by 36.1 percent of the general community survey respondents. Additionally, low income housing services tied for the second worst score in the key leader survey in response to a question asking how well specific needs of resident of Frederick County were being met. In response to the same question, transitional housing for older youth received the worst score in both the general community survey and the key leader survey.

Focus groups participants also expressed concerns regarding housing and shelters in their discussion of the needs in Frederick County.

As described in the [Maryland Children's Cabinet 2015 Strategic Direction and Implementation Plan](#), existing statewide departments and offices offering services related to the impacts of incarceration include:

- Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Department of Human Resources
- Department of Juvenile Services
- Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
- Maryland State Department of Education
- Interagency Council on Homelessness

The [Frederick County Coalition for the Homeless](#) is comprised of various members including government agencies, non-profits, community organizations, religious institutions, for-profit businesses, citizens, and currently and formerly homeless persons. The Coalition works to coordinate the planning of services offered to the homeless, discuss local needs, review new projects, and advocate for additional resources to address homelessness in Frederick County. As noted in its [strategic plan](#), the Coalition is focusing on four goals over the coming years: increasing housing options, preventing homelessness, improving leadership and communication, and improving services for homeless people.

[The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs](#) provides short term emergency financial assistance to individuals and families with emergency human needs; those without food, clothing, shelter, health care, and those at risk of losing their homes. Homeless prevention programs include rental assistance, energy assistance, and security deposits. The Religious Coalition is the primary point of entry in Frederick County for families to prevent being evicted from their home and to provide rental assistance for homeless adults or families moving into permanent housing.

In summary, the lack of available shelter options for unaccompanied youth was noted as an area for improvement in Frederick County. Many existing shelters and housing programs are either for families or have a minimum age requirement that may leave younger youth with minimal options for housing and shelter. Additional or revised service and programs may be needed to combat the issue of youth homelessness in Frederick County.

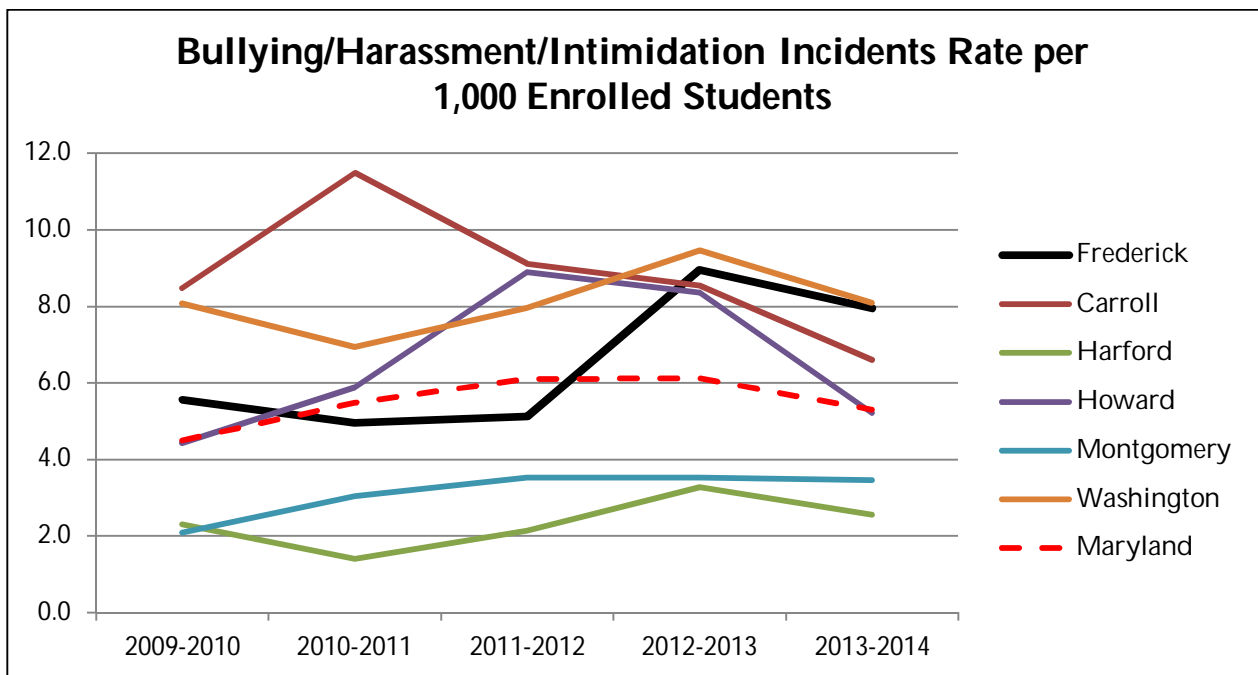
Additional Priority Needs in Frederick County

Bullying

Bullying was noted as a major problem impacting children via all methods of data collection. This problem was noted as having grown over recent years and being particularly prevalent through social media.

Six quantitative data measures related to bullying were analyzed through this assessment. Of these five, Frederick County performs better than Maryland on only one – the percentage of high school youth who did not go to school because they felt unsafe in the last 30 days. On the remaining five data measures, Frederick County performed worse than the state overall. However; Frederick County has experienced positive trends on four of these five measures as discussed in detail below.

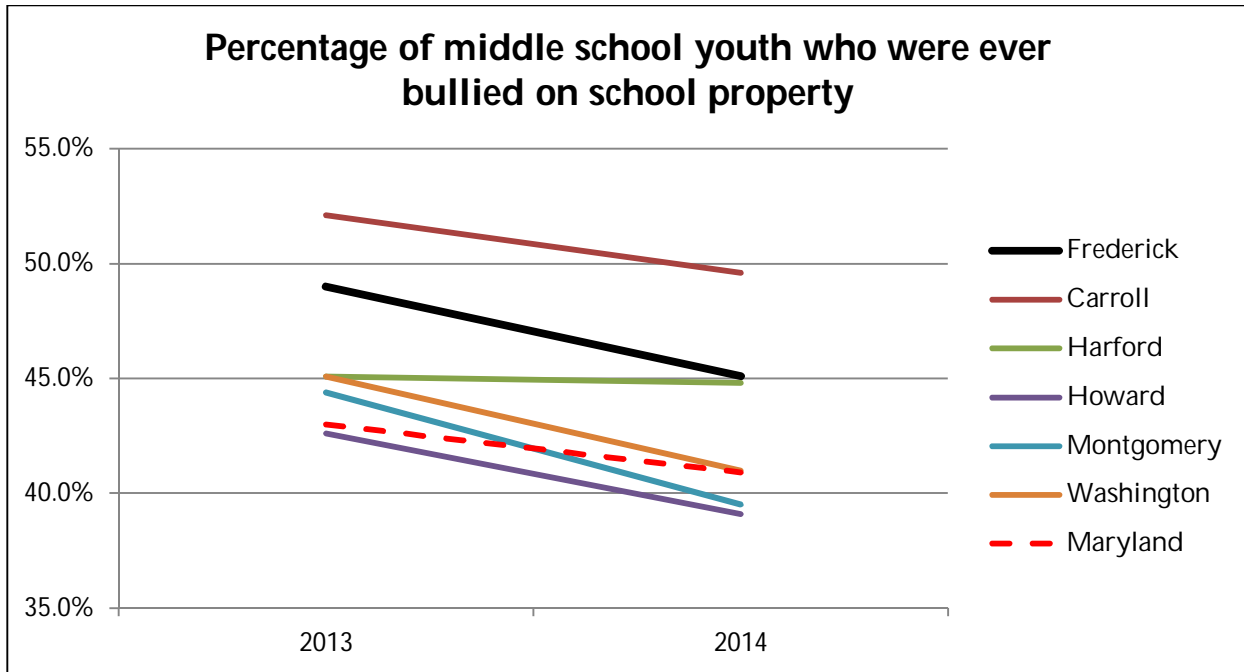
The rate of bullying/harassment/intimidation incidents at Frederick County schools has increased over the five-year period shown below. In the most recent year, Frederick County performed worse than four of its five peer counties.



Source: Bullying and Harassment Report, Governor's Office for Children.

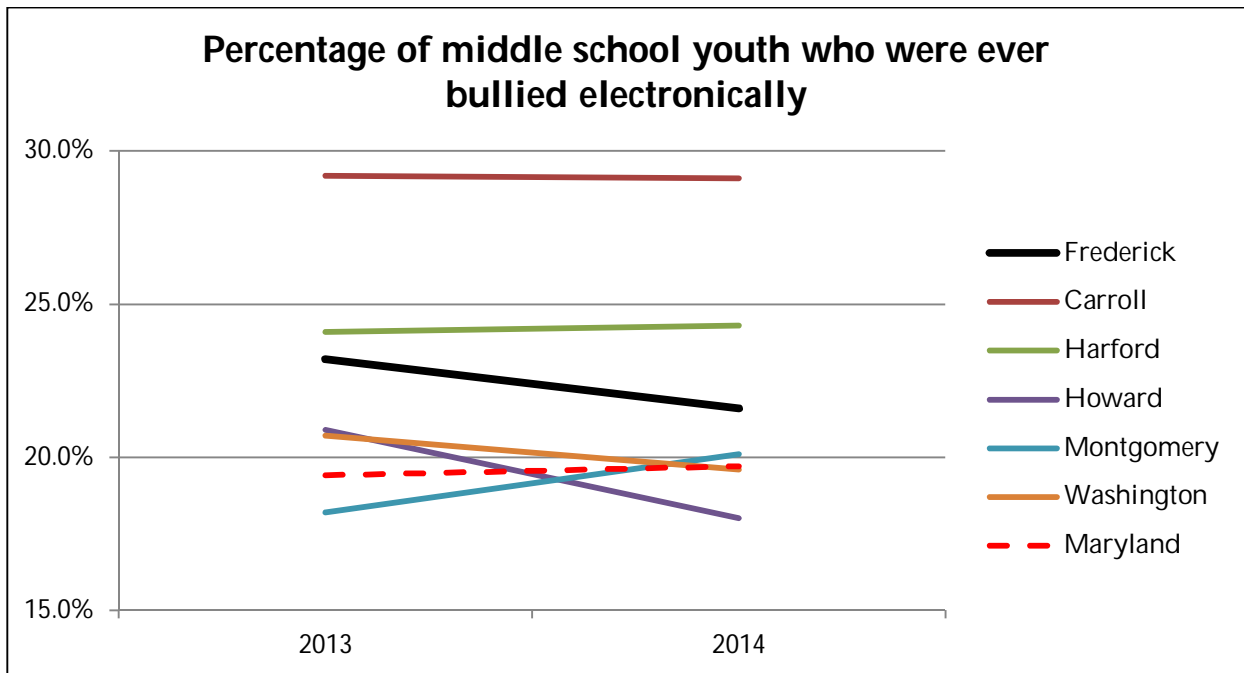
The Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey also asks both middle and high school students questions as to whether they have been bullied on school property or electronically. On all four of these data measures, Frederick County has experienced a positive trend between 2013 and 2014.

Middle school students in Frederick County report being bullied on school property more than students in all peer counties except Carroll County; thus, Frederick County has significant room for continued improvement such as that experienced from 2013 to 2014.



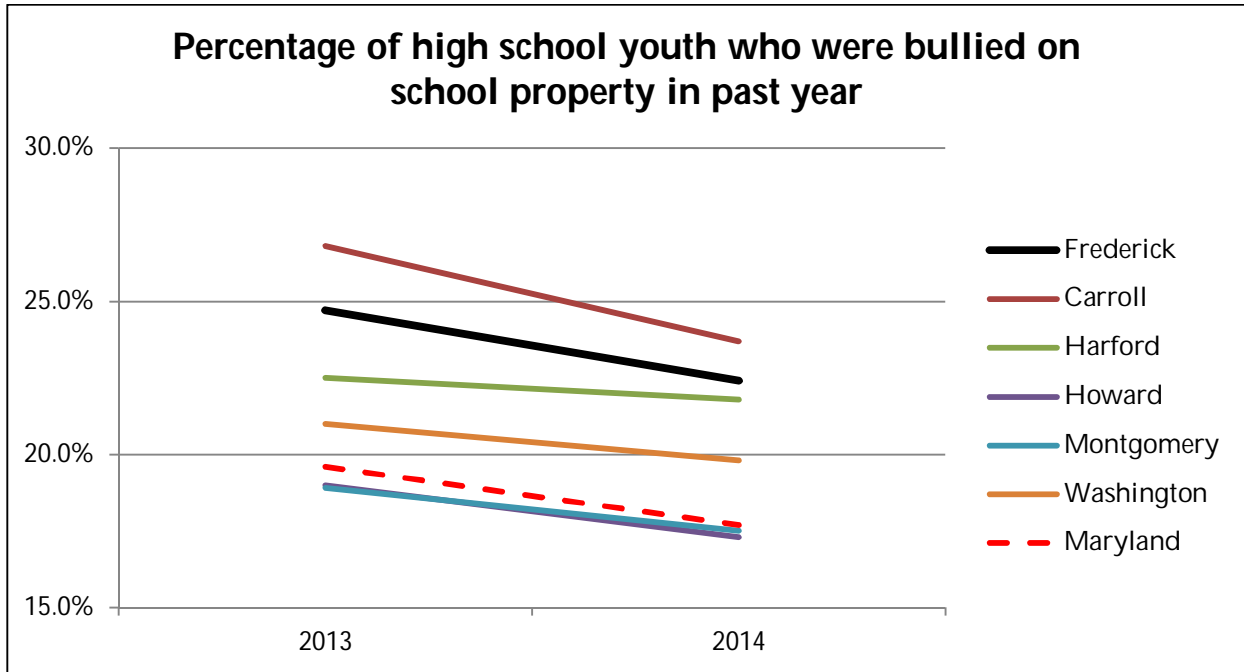
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Nearly 22 percent of Frederick County middle school students reported that they had been bullied electronically. Only Carroll and Harford counties had a higher percentage of middle school students stating that they had ever been bullied electronically.



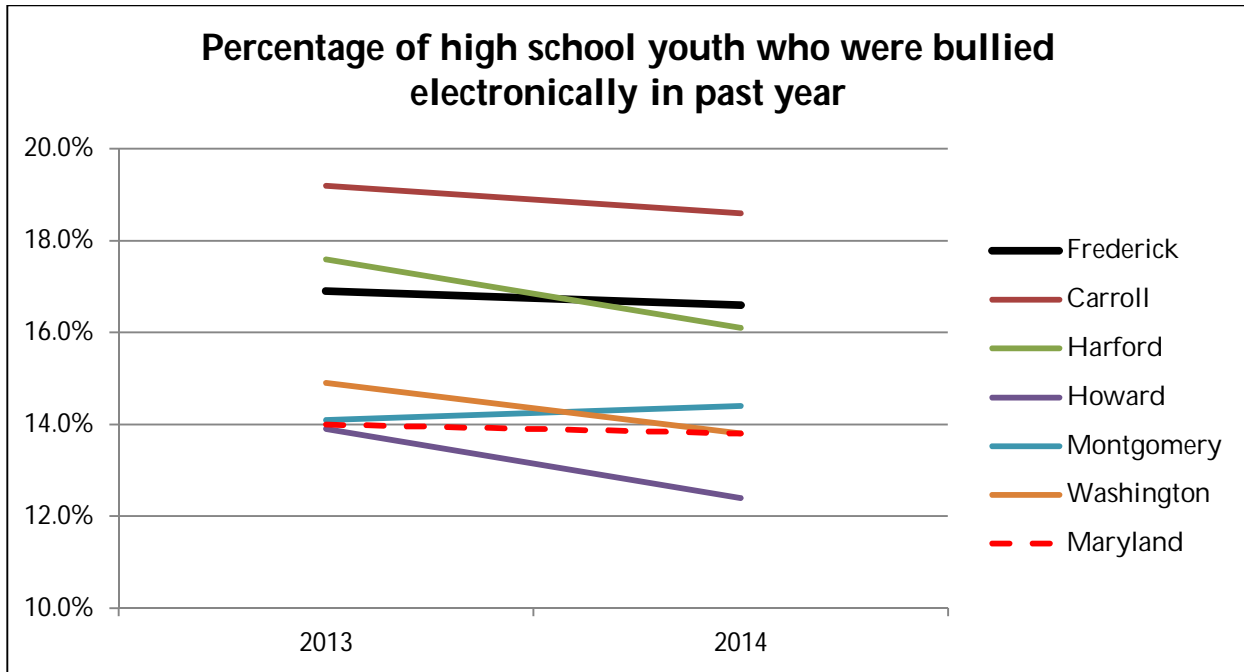
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

High school students were asked the same two questions regarding bullying; however, rather than being asked if they had ever been bullied on school property or electronically, they were asked to answer based on whether or not they had been bullied in the past year. The percentage of high school youth who were bullied on school property during past year in Frederick County was higher than all peer counties except for Carroll County.



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Further, the percentage of high school youth who were bullied electronically during past year was higher in Frederick County than all peer counties except Carroll County.



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

When asked to rate the significance of bullying/harassment/intimidation on children and youth in Frederick County, 77.8 percent of respondents of the general community survey stated that it is a significant issue/concern and an additional 20.2 percent stated it is a slight issue/concern. Nearly 93 percent of respondents believed that this issue has either remained the same or worsened over the last five years. Half of the respondents said that there are not sufficient programs or services available to help reduce bullying/harassment/intimidation while an additional 34.4 percent said they were unsure whether sufficient programs or services are available.

Key leaders were more likely to consider bullying/harassment/intimidation to be a significant concern in the community when compared to the general community respondents. 81.8 percent of key leaders considered this to be a significant issue/concern while an additional 15.5 percent considered it to be a slight issue/concern. However, key leaders were less likely to say that bullying has either remained the same or worsened over the last five years with nearly 89 percent responding as such. Nearly half of respondents to the key leader survey said that there are not sufficient programs or services available to help reduce bullying and an additional 40 percent were not sure whether sufficient programs or services are available to help reduce youth homelessness.

Focus group participants noted that technology and social media have led to additional bullying incidents in the community. Now rather than just having bullying occurring while students are physically in school, it is prevalent online and is more difficult to control. Lack of accountability for bullying was also mentioned as an issue impacting

youth in the county. In addition, there is also more fighting and violence, much of which was linked to social media taunting and bullying.

NOT ENOUGH PROGRAMS RELATED TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION.

--FOCUS GROUP YOUTH PARTICIPANT

"...KIDS DON'T REPORT BEING BULLIED BECAUSE THEY KNOW NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO THE BULLIES AND THEN IF THEY DO TELL, THEY WILL BE BULLIED MORE."

--GENERAL COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONDENT

With the rise of social media, bullying has become even more of a problem for children and youth. More consistent interventions are needed, both at schools and within the legal system, to stop and prevent bullying. The lack of accountability on social media combined with the impulsivity and bad decision-making of many teenagers leads to more bullying because those who are participating think that because it's online it doesn't count or isn't harmful. Violence and fighting among children and youth have increased as well. Additional programs related to conflict resolution, anger management, and bullying prevention are needed in Frederick County.

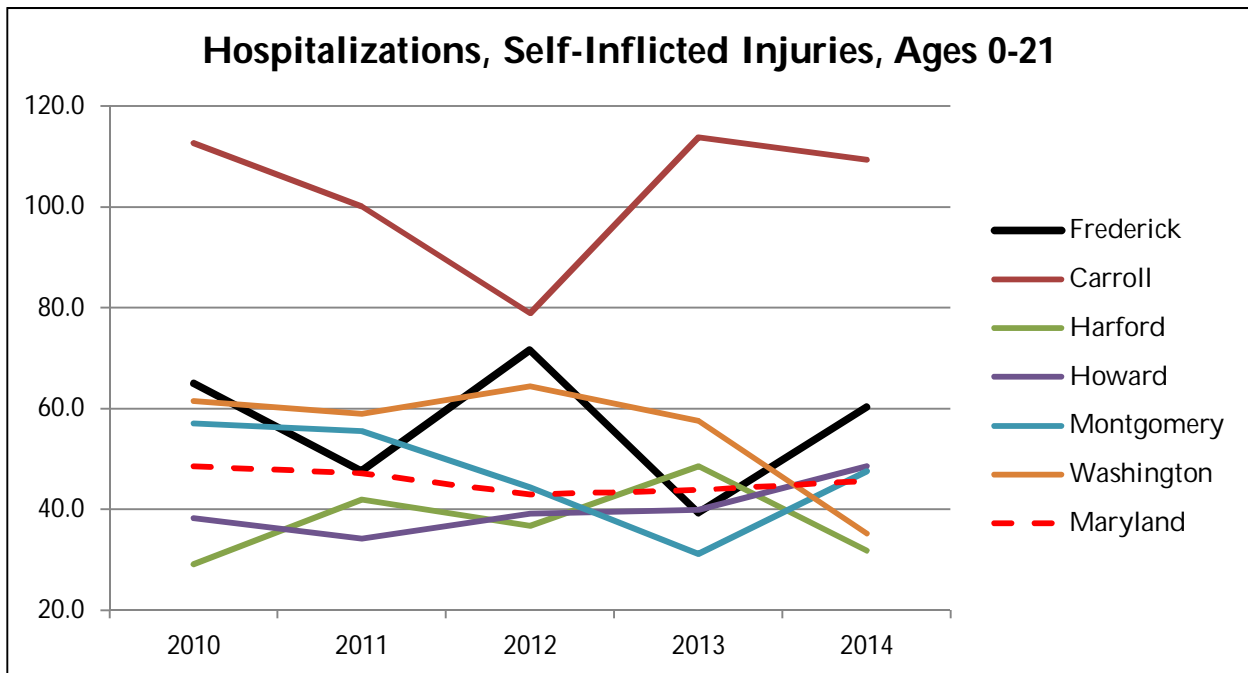
Mental and Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse

Mental and behavioral health and substance abuse are issues that were identified as being prevalent in Frederick County via all methods of data collection.

Numerous data measures related to mental health and substance abuse were analyzed through this assessment. Of these, Frederick County performs better than the state of Maryland on four measures – the percentage of middle school youth who felt sad and hopeless during past year, the percentage of middle school youth who seriously thought about killing themselves, the percentage of middle school youth who currently used tobacco (current cigarette, smokeless tobacco, cigar, or electronic vapor product use on at least 1 day during the 30 days), the percentage of middle school youth who smoked cigarettes in past 30 days. Of these four measures, trended data were available for three measures, all of which show Frederick County experienced a positive two-year trend. Data for these measures are included in Appendix 2.

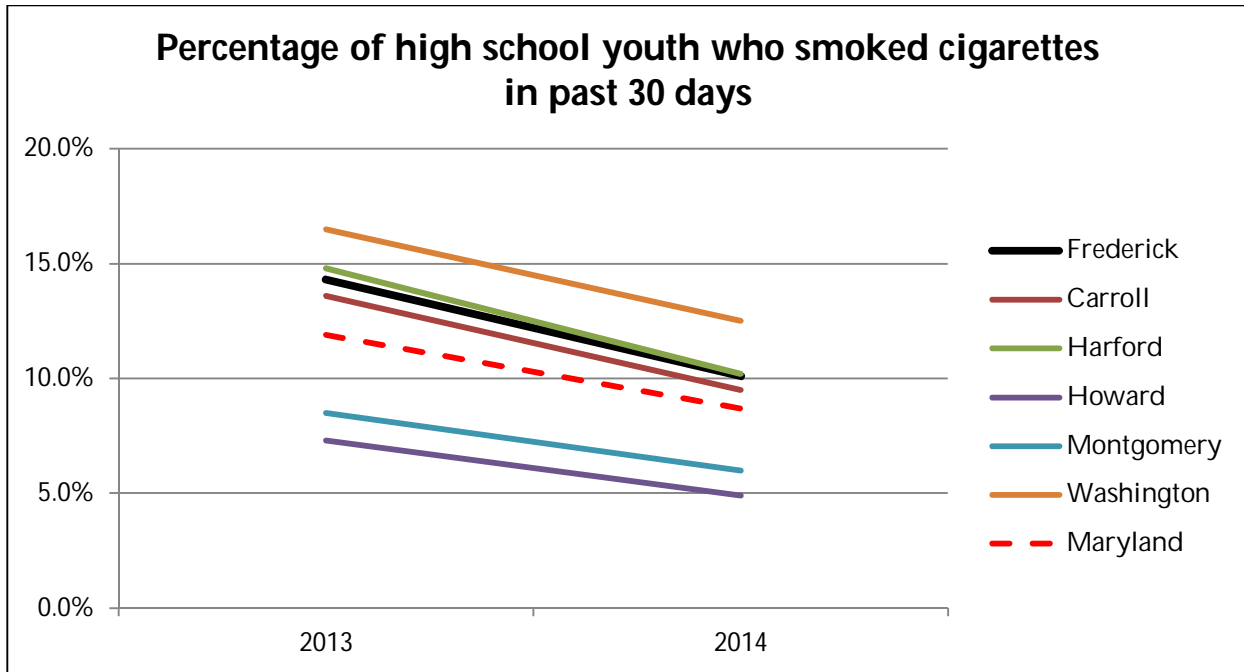
However, Frederick County performs worse than the state overall on six of the ten measures. Of these six data measures, Frederick County is trending positively on two measures, negatively on three, and multiple years of data were not included for the remaining one measure.

Of children and youth ages 0 to 21, the rate per 100,000 persons hospitalized with self-inflicted injuries was 60.3 in Frederick County compared to 45.6 in Maryland. Further, of the five peer counties Frederick County's rate is only better than Carroll County. However, the rate of hospitalizations due to self-inflicted injuries in Frederick County has declined at a rate faster than the state overall over the most recent five years.



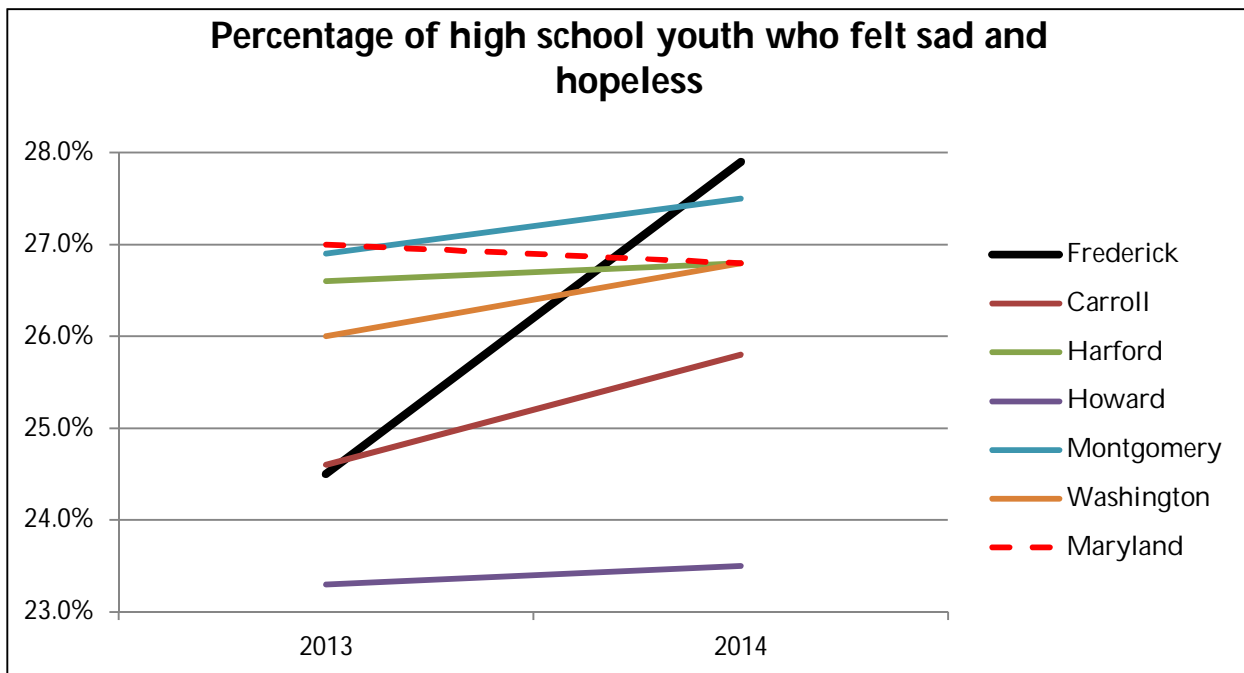
Source: Governor's Office for Children.

The percentage of high school youth who smoked cigarettes in past 30 days has declined in Frederick County. However, Frederick County's percentage remains higher than Maryland and three of its peer counties.



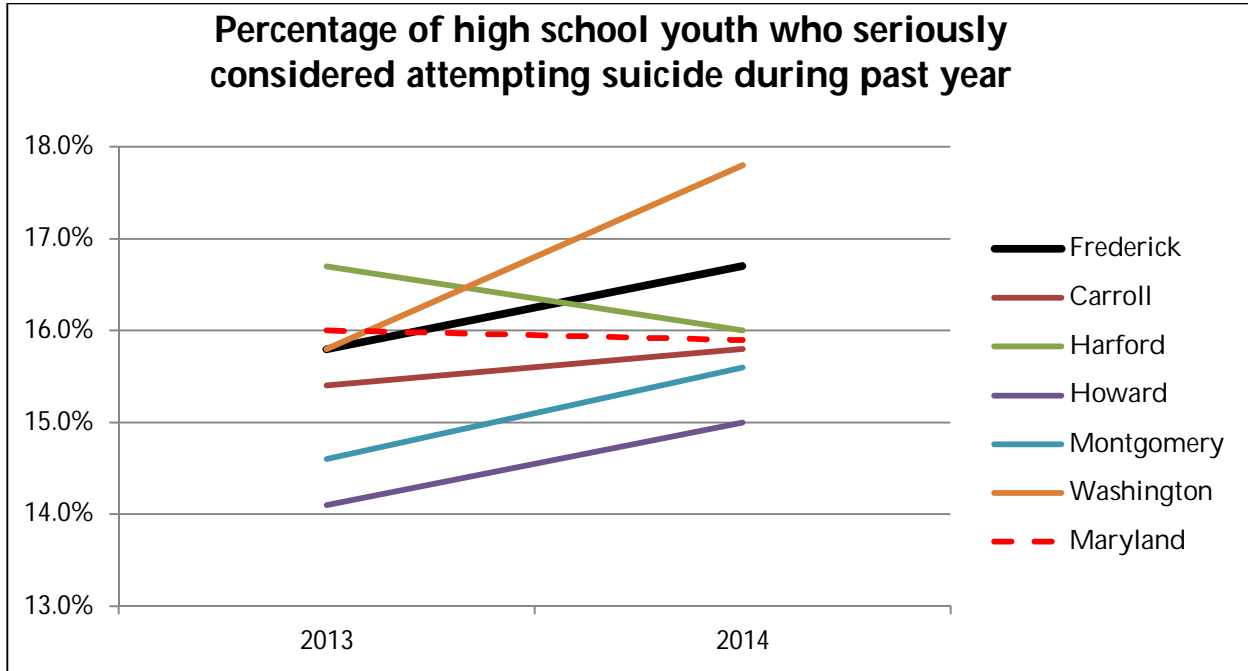
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

The percentage of high school youth who felt sad and hopeless is higher in Frederick County than all five of its peer counties and Maryland. Further, Frederick County has experienced nearly a 14 percent increase in the percentage of students feeling sad and hopeless from 2013 to 2014.



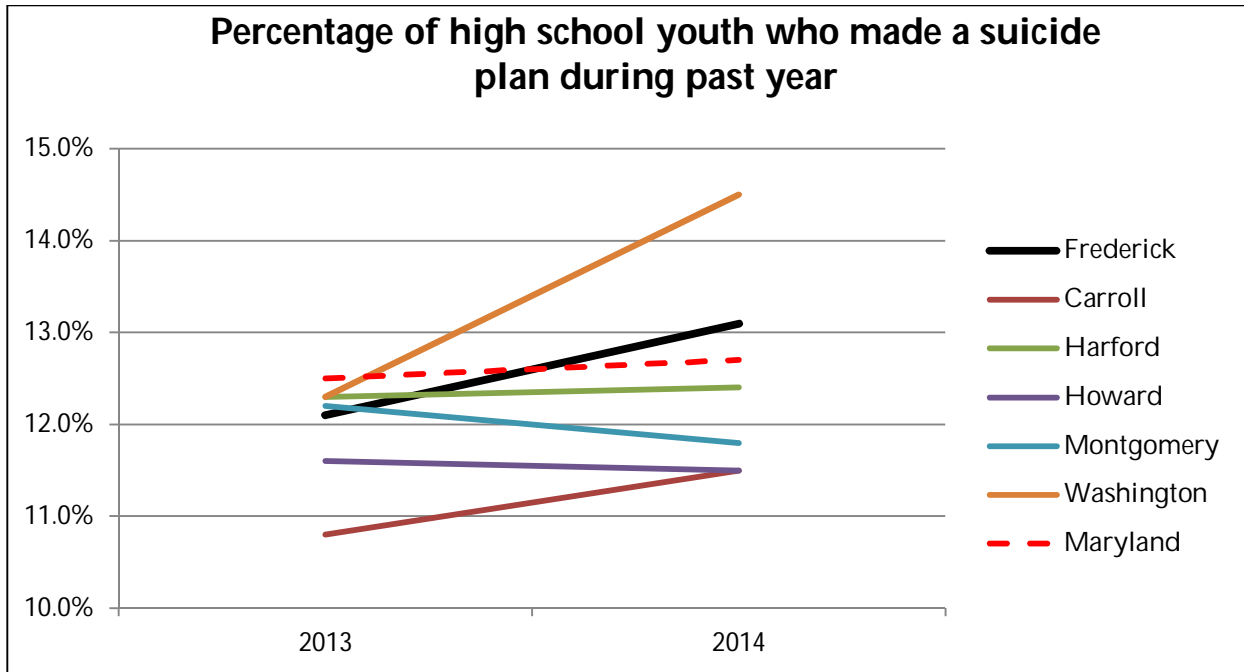
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

The percentage of high school youth who seriously considered attempting suicide during past year has risen in Frederick County from 15.8 percent in 2013 to 16.7 percent in 2014. In the most recent year, Frederick County has a higher percentage than the state and all peer counties except Washington County.



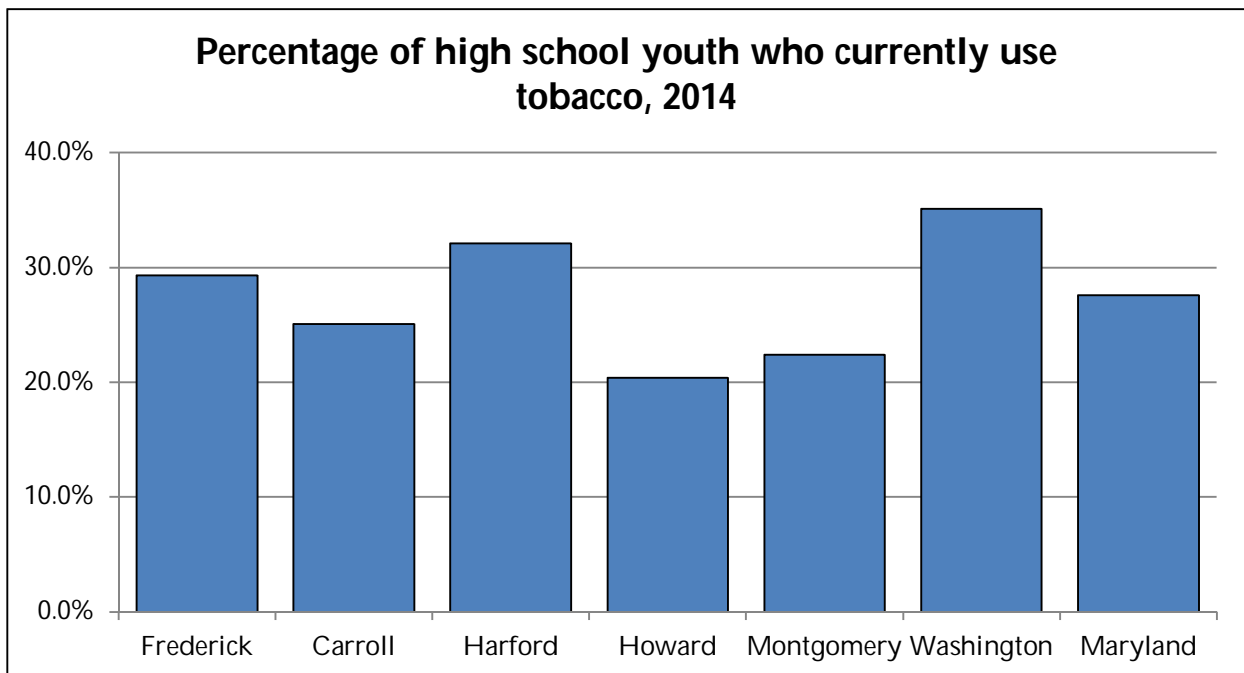
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

The percentage of high school youth who made a suicide plan during past year has also risen in Frederick County and remains higher than the state and four of five peer counties.



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Lastly, the percentage of high school youth who currently use tobacco, defined as current cigarette, smokeless tobacco, cigar, or electronic vapor product use on at least 1 day during the 30 days, is higher in Frederick County than three peer counties and Maryland.



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

When asked to identify the top problems for young adults ages 19 to 24, 29.6 percent of respondents to the general community survey and 27.3 percent of the respondents to the key leader survey said substance abuse prevalence. This was tied as the third most frequently chosen response of the general community survey and the fifth most frequently chosen response of the key leader survey. In addition, 21.6 percent of the general community survey respondents noted substance abuse prevalence as an issue for children ages 13 to 18 which was the sixth most frequently chosen response.

Additionally, violence/drug abuse prevention for young adults received the second worst score in the general community survey and tied for the second worst score in the key leader survey in response to a question asking how well specific services were meeting the needs of residents of Frederick County.

In focus groups, alcohol and drugs were both mentioned as top issues influencing youth in Frederick County. Both alcohol and drugs, particularly heroin and K2, were noted as being easy for youth to get.

Access to psychiatric and mental health services, particularly for low income families, was also discussed during the focus group sessions as a challenge faced by Frederick County residents.

Mental and behavioral health and substance abuse are issues that are particularly concerning for the children and families of Frederick County as evidenced by quantitative and qualitative data gathered throughout the assessment process. Children are impacted by not only their own mental health and substance abuse issues but also those of their parents or others living in their home. Given the potential for these issues to continue through various stages of development and the lifespan, it is important for programs and services to identify those susceptible at a young age to provide them with the tools and support to cope and improve their mental health and prevent substance abuse.

Awareness and Communication

Issues related to awareness of and communication about available programs and services were noted as issues through various qualitative methods of data collection.

When asked to identify the top problems faced by children and young adults by age cohort, 41.9 percent of general community survey respondents stated that knowing what services are available was a problem for children ages 0 to 5 and 41.9 percent of the key leaders responded the same way relative to this age group. Nearly a quarter of general community respondents and a similar proportion of key leaders chose this response relative to issues faced by children ages 6 to 12. In addition, 24.3 percent of respondents to the general community survey felt that this was also a problem for young adults ages 19 to 24.

When asked what aspect of the current delivery system they would improve, 26.9 percent of general community survey respondents said they would increase the awareness of services. 32.5 percent of key leaders responded the same way. This was the sixth most frequently chosen response in the general community surveys and tied for the second most frequently chosen response in the key leader survey. Additionally, 25.4 percent of key leaders responded that they would improve communication between agencies.

Lastly, when asked what barriers exist that make it difficult for children and families in Frederick County to access the current delivery system, 51.9 percent of general community respondents and 50.4 percent of key leader survey respondents selected awareness of services /resources. This was the most frequently chosen response in both the general community survey and the key leader survey.

Focus groups participants also expressed concerns regarding the lack of awareness of existing resources and communication between agencies and the community. Many stated that while resources may be available, the community does not know about them for a variety of reasons including lack of Internet access, language barriers, and lack of interpreter services. Further, finding preventative services is even more difficult as many children and families cannot get the help needed until it is too late. This was specifically mentioned as related to preventative interventions for youth prior to entering the criminal justice system. More publicity regarding programs, services, and resources that already exist is needed.

IT IS MORE DIFFICULT TO SEEK HELP UNLESS A CHILD HAS GOTTEN IN TROUBLE; ALSO DIFFICULT TO FIND RESOURCES IF NEEDING HELP.

--FOCUS GROUP PARENT PARTICIPANT

NOT ENOUGH COMMUNICATION ABOUT WHAT'S AVAILABLE (ESPECIALLY FOR WORKING PARENTS).

--FOCUS GROUP PARENT PARTICIPANT

AGENCIES ARE NOT FULLY UTILIZING SOCIAL MEDIA OR WEB-BASED TECHNOLOGIES THAT CONNECT TEENS/FAMILIES/PROVIDERS.

--FOCUS GROUP ORGANIZATION PARTICIPANT

Ensuring that the community is aware of available services directly impacts the effectiveness of these programs. Additional publicity and community outreach is needed. Targeted communication and outreach for immigrants, non-English speaking, and working parents were noted as a major need.

Transportation

Transportation arose as a top issue in Frederick County based on the qualitative data collected through this assessment process. Focus group participants and general community and key leader survey respondents discussed and identified this issue so frequently that it seemed only appropriate to ensure its inclusion as a priority need area for the county moving forward.

When asked what barriers exist that make it difficult for children and families in Frederick County to access the current delivery system, 38.9 percent of general community respondents and 43.2 percent of key leader survey respondents selected transportation and the lack of regional services. This was the second most frequently chosen response in both the general community survey and the key leader survey.

When asked what aspect of the current delivery system they would improve, 33.3 percent of general community survey respondents said they would improve and provide transportation. 34.1 percent of key leaders responded the same way. This was

the third most frequently chosen response in the general community surveys and the most frequently chosen response in the key leader survey.

Further, in response to a question asking how well specific needs of resident of Frederick County were being met, transportation services tied for the fourth worst score in the general community survey and tied for the second worst score in the key leader survey.

Focus groups participants also expressed concerns regarding transportation services and the impact that the lack of transportation has on various other aspects of daily life, such as employment and access to existing services.

NOT ENOUGH PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND TAXIS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE.

--FOCUS GROUP PARENT PARTICIPANT

IT'S HARD TO GET AROUND. LOCALLY, THERE ARE TOO MANY STOPS MAKING TRIPS TAKE TOO LONG AND IF YOU'RE IN AN OUTLYING TOWN IT'S EVEN WORSE.

--FOCUS GROUP YOUTH PARTICIPANT

IF YOU DON'T LIVE IN FREDERICK AND DON'T HAVE A CAR, YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK.

--FOCUS GROUP ORGANIZATION PARTICIPANT

Many aspects of daily life require use of transportation, including employment, education, access to childcare programs, and access to other existing services, and all of these factor into one's overall well-being. The poor timeliness and locations of existing public transit options in Frederick County create a barrier for those needing to utilize such resources. Access to reliable and timely transportation options can improve the well-being of the community.

CHAPTER 4 | SIGNIFICANT AREAS OF VARIATION

Identified need areas may vary among sub-populations within Frederick County. As part of this assessment, the OCF and LMB ensured that variations by age and ethnicity/language were identified based on the inclusion of age-specific questions in the two web-based surveys and focus groups held in various languages meant to target specific sub-groups who may have not otherwise been adequately accounted for in the data collection process.

Variation based on Age

The general community and key leader surveys both included questions related to the identification of top needs for various age cohorts. These age cohorts included children ages 0 to 5, children ages 6 to 12, children ages 13 to 18, and young adults ages 19 to 24. Given the large differences between an infant and a young adult, the OCF and LMB felt that this was necessary to include in the surveys to allow for analysis related to the needs identified for each age cohort.

The table below summarizes the top three problems identified by respondents to the general community survey. The needs identified for children ages 6 to 12 and children ages 13 to 18 are the most similar age cohorts with inadequate role models to mentor/positively influence and insufficient parental involvement and support being identified as the second and third most important problems for each cohort.

General Community Survey Results: Top Problems for Children and Families				
Response Ranking	Children 0-5	Children 6-12	Children 13-18	Young Adults 19-24
#1 Problem	Lack of affordable childcare	Lack of after-school programs/activities/supervision	Increase in gang activity/negative peer influences	Lack of jobs/vocational training/career development
#2 Problem	Knowing what services are available	Inadequate role models to mentor/positively influence	Inadequate role models to mentor/positively influence	Insufficient transitional programs/services for older youth
#3 Problem	Funding cuts/loss of services	Insufficient parental involvement and support	Insufficient parental involvement and support	Tied - Lack of affordable housing; Substance abuse prevalence

The table below summarizes the top three problems identified by respondents to the key leader survey. The needs identified for children ages 6 to 12 and children ages 13 to 18 are again the most similar age cohorts with inadequate role models to mentor/positively influence and insufficient parental involvement and support being identified as top problems for each cohort. In addition to identifying insufficient parental involvement and support most frequently for these two age cohorts, key leaders also identified this as a top three issue for children ages 0 to 5 whereas community members did not.

Key Leader Survey Results: Top Problems for Children and Families				
Response Ranking	Children 0-5	Children 6-12	Children 13-18	Young Adults 19-24
#1 Problem	Lack of affordable childcare	Insufficient parental involvement and support	Insufficient parental involvement and support	Lack of jobs/vocational training/career development
#2 Problem	Knowing what services are available	Inadequate role models to mentor/positively influence	Increase in gang activity/negative peer influences	Life skills
#3 Problem	Tied – Lack of affordable housing; Insufficient parental involvement and support	Lack of after-school programs/activities/supervision	Inadequate role models to mentor/positively influence	Tied – Insufficient transitional programs/services for older youth; Lack of affordable housing;

The respondents to the general community and key leader surveys varied in their identification of the top problems for each age cohort. With regards to children ages 0 to 5, respondents to both surveys agreed that the top issues for these children and families was the lack of affordable childcare followed by knowledge of what services are available. However, differences in the third most frequently chosen response were evident between the community and key leaders with community members being more likely to say that funding cuts/loss of services were more of a problem than affordable housing and parental involvement, which were identified by the key leaders.

For children ages 6 to 12, the same three problems were identified by both survey respondents. However, the frequency of chosen responses and thus the ranking of such problems differed between the two survey groups. Key leaders believed that insufficient parental involvement and support was the top problem for children within this age group while community members most frequently identified the lack of after-school programs/activities/supervision as the top problem. In both surveys, inadequate role models to mentor/positively influence was identified as the second most frequently chosen problem.

Similarly, both key leaders and community members identified the same top three problems for children ages 13 to 18; however, the ranking of these problems differed. Community members identified the increase in gang activity/negative peer influences most frequently for this age group whereas key leaders identified insufficient parental involvement and support most frequently.

Community members and key leaders both identified the lack of jobs/vocational trainings/career development as the top problem for young adults ages 19 to 24. In addition, lack of affordable housing and insufficient transitional programs/services were also identified as top problem for this age cohort in both surveys. However, key leaders selected life skills as one of the top problems for young adults while community members selected substance abuse prevalence.

Overall, the problems identified for each age cohort were very similar between the general community and key leader surveys.

Variation based on Language/Ethnicity

Some focus groups were targeted to gather input from minority groups to ensure that any needs specific to these sub-populations were included in this assessment. Two focus groups specifically targeting the Hispanic/Spanish-speaking population were held – one at Family Partnership with Hispanic mothers and another at Centro Hispano de Frederick. The Asian American population comprised an additional focus group.

Participants of these groups generally agreed that better education and culturally appropriate communication to make residents aware of available resources was a significant need. Language barriers and a lack of translation and interpretive services create additional barriers for members of these sub-populations. Further, the time of day that services are offered may not be viable for members of minority communities given inflexible work schedules for many.

While some participants felt that organizations were beginning to become culturally competent, many felt that organizations in Frederick County are not sufficiently educated about diversity to be fully competent. Most felt that additional training and educational resources regarding cultural competencies are needed.

Further, the need to “link” schools, parents, and existing government services was noted as an area of need. Liaisons between school and existing organization, such as the Asian American Center of Frederick and Centro Hispano de Frederick, are needed to ensure that understandable information is being sent to parents. Such organizations are already very well connected with and trusted by their respective communities, and can serve as an effective conduit of information and resources. Additional comments related to public schools include the lack of translated questions and interpretative

services allowed during test-taking, which makes it difficult for children to understand and complete standardized tests, placing an additional burden on these children and families.

Immigrant and refugee populations face additional barriers in accessing services due to the fear of deportation and family separation due to immigration status. More services geared towards connecting these groups to services are needed. Specifically, access to counseling services was noted as an area of need for immigrants and refugees.

Some members of both the Hispanic and Asian American communities also mentioned racism as an influential factor negatively impacting this group and their ability to access existing services.

Clearly, connecting minority groups to services via effective and culturally relevant communication methods are critically important as Frederick County's population continues to diversify.

Variation based on Geography

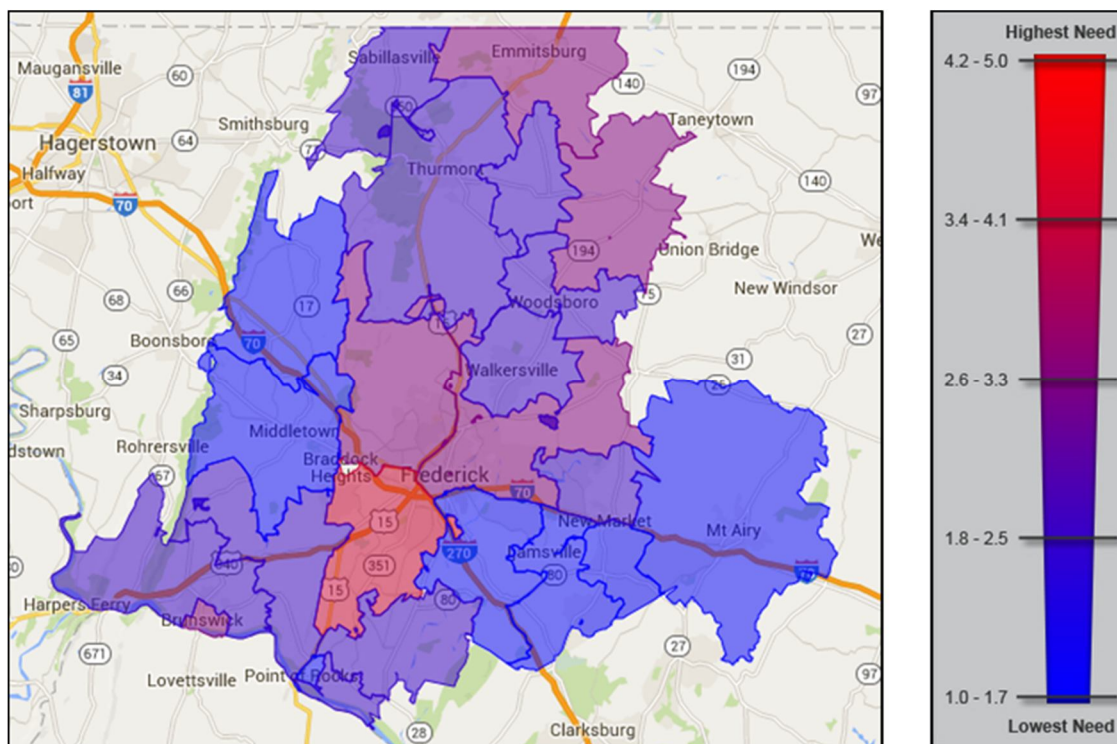
Although data specific to the various ZIP codes and municipalities in Frederick County were not available for all individual measures collected and analyzed, as part of the county-level analysis discussed throughout this report, the OCF and LMB believed that understanding the variances that exist within the county were an important part of this assessment. As such, the Community Needs Index (CNI) was included as a tool by which to identify such variances. The CNI, developed by Dignity Health and Truven, identifies the severity of key disparities for every ZIP code in the United States.

While the primary purpose for which this measure was initially developed focused on the area of public health, the CNI is helpful to understand from a broader perspective because it accounts for the underlying economic and structural barriers that affect overall health. Using a combination of research, literature, and experiential evidence, Dignity Health identified five prominent barriers that make it possible to quantify healthcare access in communities across the nation. These barriers include those related to income, culture/language, education, insurance, and housing.

To determine the severity of barriers to access in a given community, the CNI gathers data about that community's socio-economy. For example, what percentage of the population is elderly and living in poverty; what percentage of the population is underinsured; what percentage of the population is unemployed, etc. Using this data a score is assigned to each barrier condition (with one representing less community need and five representing more community need). The scores are then aggregated and averaged for a final CNI score (each barrier receives equal weight in the average). A

score of 1.0 indicates a zip code with the lowest socio-economic barriers, while a score of 5.0 represents a zip code with the most socio-economic barriers.

Although Frederick County received an overall CNI score of 2.4, there is some variability within the county as a quarter of the county's ZIP codes fall into the mid to mid-high CNI score range, indicating the presence of socioeconomic barriers to access for the population in those areas. As shown on the map below, areas of greatest need are primarily located in the central and northern portions of the county.



As reflected in the table below, while the majority of Frederick County's ZIP codes fall into the mid-low range, one-third of its ZIP codes fall into the low range. However, areas of greater do need exist, particularly in ZIP code 21703 in Frederick City and the additional ZIP codes that fall into the mid-range of CNI scores.

Frederick County Community Need Index (CNI) By ZIP Code				
ZIP Code	City	Population	Community Need Index Score	Community Need Index Level
21701	Frederick	36,848	2.8	Mid
21702	Frederick	41,194	3.2	Mid
21703	Frederick	35,252	3.4	Mid-high
21704	Frederick	15,992	1.6	Low
21710	Adamstown	4,745	2.0	Mid-low
21716	Brunswick	5,033	2.8	Mid
21718	Burkittsville	175	1.6	Low
21727	Emmitsburg	6,079	3.2	Mid
21754	Ijamsville	5,883	1.4	Low
21755	Jefferson	5,841	2.0	Mid-low
21757	Keymar	3,019	2.6	Mid
21758	Knoxville	5,119	1.8	Mid-low
21769	Middletown	11,691	1.4	Low
21770	Monrovia	5,074	1.2	Low
21771	Mount Airy	30,213	1.6	Low
21773	Myersville	5,308	1.4	Low
21774	New Market	12,605	1.8	Mid-low
21777	Point Of Rocks	1,637	1.6	Low
21778	Rocky Ridge	1,150	2.2	Mid-low
21780	Sabillasville	1,575	2.2	Mid-low
21788	Thurmont	11,656	2.2	Mid-low
21790	Tuscarora	97	1.8	Mid-low
21793	Walkersville	10,163	2.0	Mid-low
21798	Woodsboro	2,372	2.0	Mid-low

CHAPTER 5 | NEXT STEPS

The OCF and LMB are committed to improving the status of children and families throughout Frederick County. This assessment represents just one component of the work being done, and the findings from this assessment are already being used to plan for and fund the services and strategies necessary to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

The most critically important needs of the Frederick County community will continue to change and evolve as the population increases and further resources and services are developed. As a result, this assessment will continue to be reviewed and supporting information updated to understand how needs are changing and to monitor the success of ongoing and new initiatives.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 | COUNTY PROFILE

Frederick County is the largest county in Maryland geographically, encompassing 667 square miles in total land area (including bodies of water). It is also Maryland's fastest growing county and is home to Frederick City, the second largest city in Maryland. In 2016, the county is home to nearly 247,000 residents, 32.8 percent of which are 24 years old or younger.

Please note that much of the analysis provided below is relative to the children, youth, and young adults of Frederick County that are 24 years old or younger.

Total Population

According to data from Nielsen, Frederick County is projected to grow 0.9 percent annually from 2010 to 2021 with the addition of almost 48,000 people. The table below shows the total population of Frederick County, as well as the population for Maryland, for 2010, 2016, and 2021.

Total Population		
Year	Frederick County	Maryland
2010	233,385	5,773,552
2016	246,984	6,041,139
2021	258,305	6,276,927
2010-2021 CAGR*	0.9%	0.8%

Source: Nielsen.

*Compound Annual Growth Rate.

Age

The median age in Frederick County is consistently higher than the state of Maryland overall.

Median Age		
Year	Frederick County	Maryland
2010	38.1	37.7
2016	39.3	38.7

Median Age		
Year	Frederick County	Maryland
2021	40.4	39.9

Source: Nielsen.

The tables below show the children, youth, and young adult population by age cohort for 2010, 2016, and 2021 in Frederick County and Maryland. Among the child, youth, and young adult cohorts, the 21-24 age group in Frederick County is expected to grow significantly faster than any other age cohorts during the coming years. However, the 10-14 age cohort remains the largest in all three years analyzed.

2010 Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	14,862	364,488
Age 5 - 9	16,303	366,868
Age 10 - 14	17,234	379,029
Age 15 - 17	10,645	242,579
Age 18 - 20	8,948	244,675
Age 21 - 24	10,400	312,685

Source: Nielsen.

2010 Percent of Total Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	6.4%	6.3%
Age 5 - 9	7.0%	6.4%
Age 10 - 14	7.4%	6.6%
Age 15 - 17	4.6%	4.2%
Age 18 - 20	3.8%	4.2%
Age 21 - 24	4.5%	5.4%

Source: Nielsen.

2016 Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	14,569	366,443
Age 5 - 9	15,561	373,164
Age 10 - 14	16,875	378,010
Age 15 - 17	10,596	234,236
Age 18 - 20	10,554	252,154
Age 21 - 24	12,767	318,403

Source: Nielsen.

2016 Percent of Total Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	5.9%	6.1%
Age 5 - 9	6.3%	6.2%
Age 10 - 14	6.8%	6.3%
Age 15 - 17	4.3%	3.9%
Age 18 - 20	4.3%	4.2%
Age 21 - 24	5.2%	5.3%

Source: Nielsen.

2021 Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	14,923	368,920
Age 5 - 9	14,974	373,760
Age 10 - 14	16,046	381,796
Age 15 - 17	10,948	243,236
Age 18 - 20	11,189	260,622

2021 Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 21 - 24	14,593	326,566

Source: Nielsen.

2021 Percent of Total Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	5.8%	5.9%
Age 5 - 9	5.8%	6.0%
Age 10 - 14	6.2%	6.1%
Age 15 - 17	4.2%	3.9%
Age 18 - 20	4.3%	4.2%
Age 21 - 24	5.6%	5.2%

Source: Nielsen.

Gender

Males

According to Nielsen, the distribution of males in Frederick County is higher than the statewide distribution of males for the same time periods, as demonstrated in the tables below. Among the child, youth, and young adult cohorts, the number of males in the 21-24 age group in Frederick County is expected to grow significantly faster than any other age cohorts during the coming years. However, the 10-14 age cohort remains the largest as a percentage of total Frederick County male population in all three years analyzed.

Total Male Population		
Year	Frederick County	Maryland
2010	114,806	2,791,762
2016	121,866	2,930,975

Total Male Population		
Year	Frederick County	Maryland
2021	127,367	3,048,391
2010-2021 CAGR*	0.9%	0.8%

Source: Nielsen.

*Compound Annual Growth Rate.

Total Male Population as Percent of Total Population		
Year	Frederick County	Maryland
2010	49.2%	48.4%
2016	49.3%	48.5%
2021	49.3%	48.6%

Source: Nielsen.

2010 Male Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	7,623	185,916
Age 5 - 9	8,386	186,865
Age 10 - 14	8,820	193,068
Age 15 - 17	5,498	124,251
Age 18 - 20	4,627	125,972
Age 21 - 24	5,197	157,949

Source: Nielsen.

2010 Percent of Total Male Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	6.6%	6.7%
Age 5 - 9	7.3%	6.7%

2010 Percent of Total Male Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 10 - 14	7.7%	6.9%
Age 15 - 17	4.8%	4.5%
Age 18 - 20	4.0%	4.5%
Age 21 - 24	4.5%	5.7%

Source: Nielsen.

2016 Male Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	7,489	187,053
Age 5 - 9	7,981	190,370
Age 10 - 14	8,604	192,906
Age 15 - 17	5,444	119,393
Age 18 - 20	5,397	128,976
Age 21 - 24	6,625	163,547

Source: Nielsen.

2016 Percent of Total Male Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	6.1%	6.4%
Age 5 - 9	6.5%	6.5%
Age 10 - 14	7.1%	6.6%
Age 15 - 17	4.5%	4.1%
Age 18 - 20	4.4%	4.4%
Age 21 - 24	5.4%	5.6%

Source: Nielsen.

2021 Male Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	7,623	188,442
Age 5 - 9	7,695	190,742
Age 10 - 14	8,237	194,855
Age 15 - 17	5,560	123,724
Age 18 - 20	5,666	133,362
Age 21 - 24	7,518	168,679

Source: Nielsen.

2021 Percent of Total Male Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	6.0%	6.2%
Age 5 - 9	6.0%	6.3%
Age 10 - 14	6.5%	6.4%
Age 15 - 17	4.4%	4.1%
Age 18 - 20	4.4%	4.4%
Age 21 - 24	5.9%	5.5%

Source: Nielsen.

Females

According to Nielsen, the distribution of females in Frederick County is lower than the statewide distribution of females for the same time periods, as demonstrated in the tables below. Among the child, youth, and young adult cohorts, the number of females in the 21-24 age group in Frederick County is expected to grow faster than any other age cohorts during the coming years. However, the 10-14 age cohort remains the largest as a percentage of total Frederick County female population in all three years analyzed.

Total Female Population		
Year	Frederick County	Maryland
2010	118,579	2,981,790
2016	125,118	3,110,164
2021	130,938	3,228,536
2010-2021 CAGR*	0.9%	0.7%

Source: Nielsen.

*Compound Annual Growth Rate.

Total Female Population as Percent of Total Population		
Year	Frederick County	Maryland
2010	50.8%	51.6%
2016	50.7%	51.5%
2021	50.7%	51.4%

Source: Nielsen.

2010 Female Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	7,239	178,572
Age 5 - 9	7,917	180,003
Age 10 - 14	8,414	185,961
Age 15 - 17	5,147	118,328
Age 18 - 20	4,321	118,703
Age 21 - 24	5,203	154,736

Source: Nielsen.

2010 Percent of Total Female Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	6.1%	6.0%
Age 5 - 9	6.7%	6.0%
Age 10 - 14	7.1%	6.2%
Age 15 - 17	4.3%	4.0%
Age 18 - 20	3.6%	4.0%
Age 21 - 24	4.4%	5.2%

Source: Nielsen.

2016 Female Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	7,080	179,390
Age 5 - 9	7,580	182,794
Age 10 - 14	8,271	185,104
Age 15 - 17	5,152	114,843
Age 18 - 20	5,157	123,178
Age 21 - 24	6,142	154,856

Source: Nielsen.

2016 Percent of Total Female Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	5.7%	5.8%
Age 5 - 9	6.1%	5.9%
Age 10 - 14	6.6%	6.0%
Age 15 - 17	4.1%	3.7%
Age 18 - 20	4.1%	4.0%
Age 21 - 24	4.9%	5.0%

Source: Nielsen.

2021 Female Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	7,300	180,478
Age 5 - 9	7,279	183,018
Age 10 - 14	7,809	186,941
Age 15 - 17	5,388	119,512
Age 18 - 20	5,523	127,260
Age 21 - 24	7,075	157,887

Source: Nielsen.

2021 Percent of Total Female Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 0 - 4	5.6%	5.6%
Age 5 - 9	5.6%	5.7%
Age 10 - 14	6.0%	5.8%
Age 15 - 17	4.1%	3.7%
Age 18 - 20	4.2%	3.9%

2021 Percent of Total Female Population by Age		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
Age 21 - 24	5.4%	4.9%

Source: Nielsen.

Race and Ethnicity

Data by race were not available by age. The tables below include the Frederick County and Maryland population estimates and projections by race as well as the percentage of total population by race. Frederick County is less racially diverse than Maryland overall but is projected to become more racially diverse in the coming years.

2010 Population by Race		
Race	Frederick County	Maryland
One Race		
White	190,306	3,359,284
Black or African American	20,148	1,700,298
American Indian or Alaska Native	730	20,420
Asian	8,946	318,853
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	107	3,157
Other	6,684	206,832
Two or More Races	6,464	164,708

Source: Nielsen.

2010 Percent of Total Population by Race		
Race	Frederick County	Maryland
One Race		
White	81.5%	58.2%
Black or African American	8.6%	29.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.3%	0.4%

2010 Percent of Total Population by Race		
Race	Frederick County	Maryland
Asian	3.8%	5.5%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%
Other	2.9%	3.6%
Two or More Races	2.8%	2.9%

Source: Nielsen.

2016 Population by Race		
Race	Frederick County	Maryland
One Race		
White	196,199	3,384,242
Black or African American	22,192	1,795,320
American Indian or Alaska Native	795	22,648
Asian	11,161	383,526
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	197	3,923
Other	8,273	254,447
Two or More Races	8,167	197,033

Source: Nielsen.

2016 Percent of Total Population by Race		
Race	Frederick County	Maryland
One Race		
White	79.4%	56.0%
Black or African American	9.0%	29.7%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.3%	0.4%
Asian	4.5%	6.3%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%

2016 Percent of Total Population by Race		
Race	Frederick County	Maryland
Other	3.3%	4.2%
Two or More Races	3.3%	3.3%

Source: Nielsen.

2021 Population by Race		
Race	Frederick County	Maryland
One Race		
White	200,465	3,398,674
Black or African American	24,002	1,882,039
American Indian or Alaska Native	854	24,691
Asian	13,213	441,985
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	282	4,627
Other	9,744	298,202
Two or More Races	9,745	226,709

Source: Nielsen.

2021 Percent of Total Population by Race		
Race	Frederick County	Maryland
One Race		
White	77.6%	54.1%
Black or African American	9.3%	30.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.3%	0.4%
Asian	5.1%	7.0%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%
Other	3.8%	4.8%
Two or More Races	3.8%	3.6%

Source: Nielsen.

Similarly, data by ethnicity were not available by age. The tables below include the Frederick County and Maryland population estimates and projections by ethnicity as well as the percentage of total population by ethnicity. Frederick County is less ethnicity diverse than Maryland overall but is projected to become more ethnically diverse in the coming years.

2010 Population by Ethnicity		
Ethnicity	Frederick County	Maryland
Hispanic or Latino	17,135	470,632
Non-Hispanic or Latino	216,250	5,302,920

Source: Nielsen.

2010 Percent of Total Population by Ethnicity		
Ethnicity	Frederick County	Maryland
Hispanic or Latino	7.3%	8.2%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	92.7%	91.8%

Source: Nielsen.

2016 Population by Ethnicity		
Ethnicity	Frederick County	Maryland
Hispanic or Latino	21,426	587,468
Non-Hispanic or Latino	225,558	5,453,671

Source: Nielsen.

2016 Percent of Total Population by Ethnicity		
Ethnicity	Frederick County	Maryland
Hispanic or Latino	8.7%	9.7%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	91.3%	90.3%

Source: Nielsen.

2021 Population by Ethnicity		
Ethnicity	Frederick County	Maryland
Hispanic or Latino	25,400	694,973
Non-Hispanic or Latino	232,905	5,581,954

Source: Nielsen.

2021 Percent of Total Population by Ethnicity		
Ethnicity	Frederick County	Maryland
Hispanic or Latino	9.8%	11.1%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	90.2%	88.9%

Source: Nielsen.

Income

The median household income in Frederick County is consistently higher than the Maryland median household income; however, from 2000 to 2021, the median household income in Frederick County is expected to grow at a slower annual rate than the state overall.

Median Household Income		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
2000	\$60,262	\$53,754
2016	\$84,237	\$74,104
2021	\$85,934	\$77,398
2010-2021 CAGR*	1.7%	1.8%

Source: Nielsen.

*Compound Annual Growth Rate.

Poverty

Frederick County experiences a lower percentage of its population living below the Federal Poverty Level when compared to Maryland.

Poverty		
	Frederick County	Maryland
Percent of Population for whom poverty status is determined	6.2%	10.0%

Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimate, 2010-2014.

Households and Families

The following tables include the number of households, housing units, and families in Frederick County and Maryland. Frederick County is expected to grow from 2010 to 2021 at an annual rate faster than the state overall with regards to the number of households, housing units, and families.

Number of Households		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
2010	84,800	2,156,411
2016	90,079	2,254,798

Number of Households		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
2021	94,508	2,344,179
2010-2021 CAGR*	1.0%	0.8%

Source: Nielsen.

*Compound Annual Growth Rate.

Number of Housing Units		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
2010	90,136	2,378,814
2016	95,742	2,489,116
2021	100,326	2,583,408
2010-2021 CAGR*	1.0%	0.8%

Source: Nielsen.

*Compound Annual Growth Rate.

Number of Families		
Age Cohort	Frederick County	Maryland
2010	61,198	1,447,002
2016	65,011	1,511,041
2021	68,216	1,569,672
2010-2021 CAGR*	1.0%	0.7%

Source: Nielsen.

*Compound Annual Growth Rate.

Lastly, the average household size is greater in Frederick County than Maryland while the average family size is smaller in Frederick Count comparatively.

Average Household and Family Sizes		
	Frederick County	Maryland
Average Household Size	2.69	2.67
Average Family Size	3.17	3.25

Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimate, 2010-2014.

APPENDIX 2 | QUANTITATIVE DATA FINDINGS

This appendix includes a broad range of data that provide detailed insight into the health status and health-related behavior of residents in various counties and Maryland. These publically reported data include measures related to the eight Maryland Child Well-being Result Areas, a report which serves to promote the well-being of Maryland's children, youth, and families through data-driven analysis. The Maryland Child Well-being Result Areas include:

- Babies Born Healthy
- Healthy Children
- Children Enter School Ready to Learn
- Children are Successful in School
- Youth will Complete School
- Youth have Opportunities for Employment or Career Readiness
- Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families
- Families are Safe and Economically Stable

Analysis of each of these result areas is shown in the sections below. Each Child Well-being Result Area contains the following three tables:

- **Table 1:** A table containing the data measures included in the respective Result Area, a description of the data measure, the source of the data, and the most recent data available which was used in the prioritization process.
- **Table 2:** A summary table containing Frederick County's performance compared to Maryland overall for each measure based on the most recent data used in the prioritization process as well as the trend experienced in Frederick County (as available).
- **Table 3:** A table containing the most recent data (used in the prioritization process) for each measure for Frederick, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington counties and Maryland overall.

When reading Table 2 for each Child Well-being Result Area, please note the icons that have been included to identify how Frederick County compares to Maryland.



Represents measures in which Frederick County scores are at least five percent better than Maryland. In other words, this is an area where Frederick County is performing well.



Represents measures in which Frederick County scores are comparable to Maryland, scoring within five percent. In other words, this is an area where Frederick County is performing well but can improve.



Represents measures in which Frederick County scores are at least five percent worse than Maryland. In other words, this is an area where Frederick County can improve.

When reading Table 3 for each Child Well-being Result Area, please note the icons that have been included to identify how Frederick County data has trended.



Data for Frederick County show an increase and the trend is positive. In other words, the occurrence is going up and this is an area where Frederick County is improving.



Data for Frederick County show a decrease and the trend is positive. In other words, the occurrence is going down and this is an area where Frederick County is improving.



Data for Frederick County show an increase and the trend is negative. In other words, the occurrence is going up and this is an area where Frederick County is trending in an unfavorable direction.



Data for Frederick County show a decrease and the trend is negative. In other words, the occurrence is going down and this is an area where Frederick County is trending in an unfavorable direction.



Data for Frederick County has remained consistent. In other words, the occurrence is the same and has remained unchanged based on the available data.

Babies Born Healthy

The following table describes the measures included within the Babies Born Healthy result area as well as the source and most recent time period of the data gathered and analyzed for this assessment.

Table 1.1 - Babies Born Healthy			
Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
Preterm birth	Percentage of total live births with less than 37 weeks gestation	Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Maryland Vital Statistics	2014

Table 1.1 - Babies Born Healthy

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
Infant mortality	The number of infants who die before their first birthday per 1,000 live births	Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Maryland Vital Statistics Preliminary Report	2014
Infant mortality rate disparity - black vs white	The ratio of the Black infant mortality rate compared to the White infant mortality rate. For example, a value of 2.0 means that the Black babies are dying at twice the rate of White babies.	Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Maryland Vital Statistics Infant Mortality in Maryland brief	2011-2013*
Low birth weight	The rate of low birthweight births is the percentage of babies born weighing 2,500 grams (5.5 lbs.) or less at birth.	Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Maryland Vital Statistics	2014
Births to adolescents	Live births per 1,000 females aged 15-19	Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Maryland Vital Statistics	2014
Women receiving Early prenatal care	Percentage of pregnant women who receive prenatal care beginning in the first trimester out of total live births	Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Maryland Vital Statistics	2014
Sudden unexpected infant death rates	Rate of sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUIDs) per 1,000 live births. Sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUIDs) include deaths from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), unknown cause, accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed.	Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Maryland Vital Statistics	2010-2014

*More recent data were available; however due to limitation in Frederick County data 2011-2013 data were used to aid in the prioritization process.

The following table includes Frederick County's performance compared to Maryland overall for each measure based on the most recent data used in the prioritization process as well as the trend experienced in Frederick County (as available).

Table 1.2 - Babies Born Healthy















Measure	Frederick County Compared to MD	Frederick County Trend
Preterm birth		

Table 1.2 - Babies Born Healthy		
Measure	Frederick County Compared to MD	Frederick County Trend
Infant mortality		
Infant mortality rate disparity - black vs white		
Low birth weight		
Births to adolescents		
Women receiving Early prenatal care		
Sudden unexpected infant death rates		

Data pertaining to each of the aforementioned measures for the most recently available year can be found in the table below. Frederick County's performance on each measure was compared to Maryland's performance to determine area where Frederick County needs improvement. For informational purposes, five peer counties were also included as a reference by which to compare Frederick County's experience.

Table 1.3 - Babies Born Healthy							
Measure	Frederick County	Carroll County	Harford County	Howard County	Montgomery County	Washington County	Maryland
Preterm birth	9.2%	9.0%	10.1%	9.7%	9.4%	10.0%	10.1%
Infant mortality	3.6	3.1	4.8	4.5	4.8	7.7	6.5
Infant mortality rate disparity - black vs white	3.0	N/A	4.3	2.1	2.7	5.0	2.6
Low birth weight	7.5%	6.2%	7.5%	8.0%	7.7%	9.0%	8.6%

Table 1.3 - Babies Born Healthy

Measure	Frederick County	Carroll County	Harford County	Howard County	Montgomery County	Washington County	Maryland
Births to adolescents	11.2	8.8	10	7.2	12.3	30.4	17.8
Women receiving Early prenatal care	77.0%	75.0%	74.0%	70.0%	68.0%	69.0%	67.0%
Sudden unexpected infant death rates	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.4	1.0	0.8

Healthy Children

The following table describes the measures included within the Healthy Children result area as well as the source and most recent time period of the data gathered and analyzed for this assessment.

Table 2.1 - Healthy Children

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
Child deaths, Rate of deaths 0-14 age, per 1,000	The number of deaths to children aged 1 to 14 as rate per 1,000. Prior to 2013, the number of child deaths included in the Vital Statistic report was from ages 1-14. In 2013, the Department began including child deaths from under 1, that statistic is included in the aforementioned year. Pre-2013 data: Age 1-14. Post-2013 data: Age under 1-14.	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014
Teen Deaths, Rate of deaths 15-19 age, per 1,000	The number of deaths to youth aged 15 to 19 as rate per 1,000.	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014
Hospitalizations, All Injuries	The rate of non-fatal injuries per 100,000 children (ages 0-21) that require inpatient hospitalization in three broad injury categories: unintentional injuries*, assault, self-inflicted, or other.	Governor's Office for Children	2014

Table 2.1 - Healthy Children

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
Hospitalizations, Unintentional Injuries	The rate of non-fatal injuries per 100,000 children (ages 0-21) that require inpatient hospitalization in three broad injury categories: unintentional injuries*, assault, self-inflicted, or other.	Governor's Office for Children	2014
Hospitalizations, Assault Injuries	The rate of non-fatal injuries per 100,000 children (ages 0-21) that require inpatient hospitalization in three broad injury categories: unintentional injuries*, assault, self-inflicted, or other.	Governor's Office for Children	2013
Hospitalizations, Self-Inflicted Injuries	The rate of non-fatal injuries per 100,000 children (ages 0-21) that require inpatient hospitalization in three broad injury categories: unintentional injuries*, assault, self-inflicted, or other.	Governor's Office for Children	2014
Hospitalizations, Other Injuries	The rate of non-fatal injuries per 100,000 children (ages 0-21) that require inpatient hospitalization in three broad injury categories: unintentional injuries*, assault, self-inflicted, or other.	Governor's Office for Children	2014
Percent of Children with Health Insurance Coverage	Percent of Children, Ages 0 to 19, with Health Insurance Coverage	Governor's Office for Children	2013
Children/adolescents who are obese	Percent of adolescents ages 12 to 19 attending public school who have a Body Mass Index (BMI) (determined through self-reported height and weight) equal to or above the 95th percentile for age and gender	Maryland SHIP	2013
Percentage of middle school youth who currently used tobacco	Percentage of middle school youth who currently used tobacco (current cigarette, smokeless tobacco, cigar, or electronic vapor product use on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of middle school youth who smoked cigarettes in past 30 days	Percentage of middle school youth who smoked cigarettes in past 30 days	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of high school youth who currently used tobacco	Percentage of high school youth who currently used tobacco (current cigarette, smokeless tobacco, cigar, or electronic vapor product use on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014

Table 2.1 - Healthy Children

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
Percentage of high school youth who smoked cigarettes in past 30 days	Percentage of high school youth who smoked cigarettes in past 30 days	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Asthma Childhood- Doctor ever diagnosed child with asthma? % responding yes	Percentage of respondents whose child has ever been diagnosed with asthma	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey	2014
Asthma Childhood- Does the child still have asthma? % responding yes	Percentage of respondents whose child has been diagnosed with asthma and still has asthma (Choices includes answer of never had asthma)	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey	2013

The following table includes Frederick County's performance compared to Maryland overall for each measure based on the most recent data used in the prioritization process as well as the trend experienced in Frederick County (as available).

Table 2.2 – Healthy Children



























Measure	Frederick County Compared to MD	Frederick County Trend
Child deaths, Rate of deaths 0-14 age, per 1,000		
Teen Deaths, Rate of deaths 15-19 age, per 1,000		
Hospitalizations, All Injuries		
Hospitalizations, Unintentional Injuries		
Hospitalizations, Assault Injuries		
Hospitalizations, Self-Inflicted Injuries		
Hospitalizations, Other Injuries	N/A	N/A

Table 2.2 – Healthy Children

Measure	Frederick County Compared to MD	Frederick County Trend
Percent of Children with Health Insurance Coverage		
Children/adolescents who are obese		
Percentage of middle school youth who currently used tobacco		N/A
Percentage of middle school youth who smoked cigarettes in past 30 days		
Percentage of high school youth who currently used tobacco		N/A
Percentage of high school youth who smoked cigarettes in past 30 days		
Asthma Childhood- Doctor ever diagnosed child with asthma? % responding yes		
Asthma Childhood- Does the child still have asthma? % responding yes		

Data pertaining to each of the aforementioned measures for the most recently available year can be found in the table below. Frederick County's performance on each measure was compared to Maryland's performance to determine area where Frederick County needs improvement. For informational purposes, five peer counties were also included as a reference by which to compare Frederick County's experience.

Table 2.3 - Healthy Children

Measure	Frederick County	Carroll County	Harford County	Howard County	Montgomery County	Washington County	Maryland
Child deaths, Rate of deaths 0-14 age, per 1,000	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.6
Teen Deaths, Rate of deaths 15-19 age, per 1,000	0.3	N/A	0.6	0.3	0.2	N/A	0.3
Hospitalizations, All Injuries	188.0	353.7	252.8	185.2	113.0	248.7	211.4

Table 2.3 - Healthy Children

Measure	Frederick County	Carroll County	Harford County	Howard County	Montgomery County	Washington County	Maryland
Hospitalizations, Unintentional Injuries	122.1	225.1	200.8	124.6	59.3	198.5	141.3
Hospitalizations, Assault Injuries	15.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.0	N/A	27.8
Hospitalizations, Self-Inflicted Injuries	60.3	109.3	31.8	48.5	47.5	35.2	45.6
Hospitalizations, Other Injuries	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.4
Percent of Children with Health Insurance Coverage	95.2%	95.8%	96.1%	96.1%	94.9%	95.4%	95.2%
Children/adolescents who are obese	10.0%	9.6%	10.7%	5.9%	7.1%	11.8%	11.0%
Percentage of middle school youth who currently used tobacco	7.9%	5.0%	10.4%	5.6%	8.0%	13.4%	11.1%
Percentage of middle school youth who smoked cigarettes in past 30 days	1.8%	1.3%	2.5%	0.7%	1.2%	5.2%	2.5%
Percentage of high school youth who currently used tobacco	29.3%	25.1%	32.1%	20.4%	22.4%	35.1%	27.6%
Percentage of high school youth who smoked cigarettes in past 30 days	10.1%	9.5%	10.2%	4.9%	6.0%	12.5%	8.7%
Asthma Childhood-Doctor ever diagnosed child with asthma? % responding yes	12.2%	N/A	N/A	15.1%	9.8%	N/A	14.4%
Asthma Childhood-Does the child still have asthma? % responding yes	11.1%	N/A	20.2%	N/A	10.9%	N/A	10.8%

Children Enter School Ready to Learn

The following table describes the measures included within the Children Enter School Ready to Learn result area as well as the source and most recent time period of the data gathered and analyzed for this assessment.

Table 3.1 – Children Enter School Ready to Learn











Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
Kindergarten readiness (MMSR)	Percent of children who consistently demonstrate skills, behaviors, and abilities, which are needed to meet kindergarten expectations successfully through 30 indicators across seven domains in the first quarter of kindergarten.	Maryland SHIP	2013-2014
Kindergarten readiness (KRA) - Demonstrating Readiness	Percent demonstrating readiness (the skills and behaviors needed to fully participate in the kindergarten curriculum)	Ready for Kindergarten Maryland	2014-2015
Kindergarten readiness: Language and Literacy (KRA)	Percent of students rated as demonstrating readiness for kindergarten in the domain of "language and literacy" on the Maryland Model for School Readiness kindergarten assessment	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014-2015
Kindergarten readiness: Mathematical (KRA)	Percent of students rated as demonstrating readiness for kindergarten in the domain of "mathematical thinking"	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014-2015
Kindergarten readiness: Physical Well-being and Motor Development (KRA)	Percent demonstrating readiness for kindergarten in the domain of "physical well-being and motor development"	Ready for Kindergarten Maryland	2014-2015
Kindergarten readiness: Social Foundations (KRA)	Percent demonstrating readiness for kindergarten in the domain of "social foundations"	Ready for Kindergarten Maryland	2014-2015
Kindergarten readiness disparity - white vs Hispanic	Disparity in the percent of White and Hispanic students is rated as demonstrating readiness for kindergarten in the domains of "language and literacy" and "mathematical thinking" (average) on the Maryland Model for School Readiness kindergarten assessment; For example, a value of 15 means that there is a 15 percentage point gap between the percent of White students and the percent of Hispanic students demonstrating readiness for kindergarten. A positive number indicates that a higher percentage of White students than Hispanic students are fully ready for kindergarten. Larger numbers indicate a greater disparity.	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014-2015

Table 3.1 – Children Enter School Ready to Learn

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
Preschool Enrollment (% ages 3 and 4 in school)	The percentage of children ages 3 and 4 enrolled in public or private nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten.	Opportunity Index	2014

The following table includes Frederick County's performance compared to Maryland overall for each measure based on the most recent data used in the prioritization process as well as the trend experienced in Frederick County (as available).

Table 3.2 – Children Enter School Ready to Learn

Measure	Frederick County Compared to MD	Frederick County Trend
Kindergarten readiness (MMSR)		
Kindergarten readiness (KRA) - Demonstrating Readiness		N/A
Kindergarten readiness: Language and Literacy (KRA)		N/A
Kindergarten readiness: Mathematical (KRA)		N/A
Kindergarten readiness: Physical Well-being and Motor Development (KRA)		N/A
Kindergarten readiness: Social Foundations (KRA)		N/A
Kindergarten readiness disparity - white vs Hispanic		N/A
Preschool Enrollment (% ages 3 and 4 in school)		

Data pertaining to each of the aforementioned measures for the most recently available year can be found in the table below. Frederick County's performance on each measure was compared to Maryland's performance to determine area where Frederick County needs improvement. For informational purposes, five peer counties were also included as a reference by which to compare Frederick County's experience.

Table 3.3 - Children Enter School Ready to Learn

Measure	Frederick County	Carroll County	Harford County	Howard County	Montgomery County	Washington County	Maryland
Kindergarten readiness (MMSR)	89.0%	94.0%	89.0%	84.0%	81.0%	66.0%	83.0%
Kindergarten readiness (KRA) - Demonstrating Readiness	55.0%	59.0%	48.0%	57.0%	48.0%	43.0%	47.0%
Kindergarten readiness: Language and Literacy (KRA)	56.0%	57.0%	46.0%	56.0%	44.0%	47.0%	47.0%
Kindergarten readiness: Mathematical (KRA)	41.0%	54.0%	56.0%	57.0%	53.0%	36.0%	42.0%
Kindergarten readiness: Physical Well-being and Motor Development (KRA)	62.0%	62.0%	49.0%	59.0%	51.0%	53.0%	54.0%
Kindergarten readiness: Social Foundations (KRA)	57.0%	60.0%	45.0%	55.0%	49.0%	45.0%	50.0%
Kindergarten readiness disparity - white vs Hispanic	25.0%	29.5%	18.5%	35.5%	44.0%	15.0%	32.0%
Preschool Enrollment (% ages 3 and 4 in school)	54.4%	42.3%	49.2%	48.8%	57.9%	24.8%	50.6%

Children are Successful in School

The following table describes the measures included within the Children are Successful in School result area as well as the source and most recent time period of the data gathered and analyzed for this assessment.

Table 4.1 – Children Are Successful in School

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
3rd Grade Mathematics Achievement MSA - Advanced and	3rd graders Math scoring in the "advanced and proficient" categories	Annie E. Casey, Kids	2014

Table 4.1 – Children Are Successful in School

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
Proficient	on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA).	Count Data Center	
8th Grade Mathematics Achievement MSA - Advanced and Proficient	8th graders Math scoring in the "advanced and proficient" categories on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA)	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014
3rd Grade Reading Achievement MSA - Advanced and Proficient	3rd graders reading scoring in the "advanced and proficient" categories on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA)	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014
8th Grade Reading Achievement MSA - Advanced and Proficient	8th graders reading scoring in the "advanced and proficient" categories on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA)	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014
3rd Grade Math Performance Levels PARCC - Meeting or Exceeding	The percentage of grade level students meeting or exceeding expectations on the 3 rd grade math PARCC	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2015
8th Grade Math Performance Levels PARCC - Meeting or Exceeding	The percentage of grade level students meeting or exceeding expectations on the 8 th grade math PARCC	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2015
3rd Grade Reading Performance Levels PARCC - Meeting or Exceeding	The percentage of grade level students meeting or exceeding expectations on the 3 rd grade reading PARCC	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2015
8th Grade Reading Performance Levels PARCC - Meeting or Exceeding	The percentage of grade level students meeting or exceeding expectations on the 8 th grade reading PARCC	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2015
High School, Algebra MSA	The percentage of all high school students scoring at the 'Advanced' and 'Proficient' levels on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) for Algebra	Maryland Report Card	2015
High School, Biology MSA	The percentage of all high school students scoring at the 'Advanced' and 'Proficient' levels on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) for Biology.	Maryland Report Card	2015
High School, English MSA	The percentage of all high school students scoring at the 'Advanced' and 'Proficient' levels on the	Maryland Report Card	2015

Table 4.1 – Children Are Successful in School

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
	Maryland School Assessment (MSA) for English		
Grade 5, Science MSA	The percentage of all fifth grade students scoring at the 'Advanced' and 'Proficient' levels on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) for Science	Maryland Report Card	2015
Grade 8, Science MSA	The percentage of all eighth grade students scoring at the 'Advanced' and 'Proficient' levels on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) for Science	Maryland Report Card	2015
Truancy	The percentage of all students who missed more than twenty days of school during the school year	Governor's Office for Children	2014
Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation Incidents Rate	# of Reported Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation Incidents per 1,000 enrolled students	Department of Education	2013-2014
Percentage of Students Suspended	The total percentage of students suspended for any reason during the school year ending that year. Unduplicated count of the number of students suspended divided by the September 30 enrollment	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014-2015
Percentage of middle school youth who were ever bullied on school property	Percentage of middle school youth who were ever bullied on school property	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of middle school youth who were ever bullied electronically	Percentage of middle school youth who were ever bullied electronically	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of high school youth who were bullied on school property during past year	Percentage of high school youth who were bullied on school property during past year	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of high school youth who were bullied on electronically during past year	Percentage of high school youth who were bullied on electronically during past year	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of high school youth who did not go to school because they felt unsafe in the last 30 days	Percentage of high school youth who did not go to school because they felt unsafe in the last 30 days	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014

The following table includes Frederick County's performance compared to Maryland overall for each measure based on the most recent data used in the prioritization process as well as the trend experienced in Frederick County (as available).

Table 4.2 – Children Are Successful in School







































Measure	Frederick County Compared to MD	Frederick County Trend
3rd Grade Mathematics Achievement MSA - Advanced and Proficient		
8th Grade Mathematics Achievement MSA - Advanced and Proficient		
3rd Grade Reading Achievement MSA - Advanced and Proficient		
8th Grade Reading Achievement MSA - Advanced and Proficient		
3rd Grade Math Performance Levels PARCC - Meeting or Exceeding		N/A
8th Grade Math Performance Levels PARCC - Meeting or Exceeding		N/A
3rd Grade Reading Performance Levels PARCC - Meeting or Exceeding		N/A
8th Grade Reading Performance Levels PARCC - Meeting or Exceeding		N/A
High School, Algebra MSA		
High School, Biology MSA		
High School, English MSA		
Grade 5, Science MSA		
Grade 8, Science MSA		
Truancy		
Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation Incidents Rate		

Table 4.2 – Children Are Successful in School

Measure	Frederick County Compared to MD	Frederick County Trend
Percentage of Students Suspended		
Percentage of middle school youth who were ever bullied on school property		
Percentage of middle school youth who were ever bullied electronically		
Percentage of high school youth who were bullied on school property during past year		
Percentage of high school youth who were bullied on electronically during past year		
Percentage of high school youth who did not go to school because they felt unsafe in the last 30 days		

Data pertaining to each of the aforementioned measures for the most recently available year can be found in the table below. Frederick County's performance on each measure was compared to Maryland's performance to determine area where Frederick County needs improvement. For informational purposes, five peer counties were also included as a reference by which to compare Frederick County's experience.

Table 4.3 – Children Are Successful in School

Measure	Frederick County	Carroll County	Harford County	Howard County	Montgomery County	Washington County	Maryland
3rd Grade Mathematics Achievement MSA - Advanced and Proficient	84.2%	85.5%	86.4%	84.4%	73.1%	75.0%	74.2%
8th Grade Mathematics Achievement MSA - Advanced and Proficient	64.1%	72.6%	71.2%	72.6%	69.1%	71.0%	58.7%
3rd Grade Reading Achievement MSA - Advanced and Proficient	88.4%	84.8%	84.6%	86.5%	79.8%	74.2%	77.1%
8th Grade Reading Achievement MSA - Advanced and Proficient	83.3%	88.6%	81.8%	87.4%	84.4%	80.0%	76.9%
3rd Grade Math Performance Levels PARCC - Meeting or Exceeding	51.6%	58.1%	51.0%	52.7%	42.8%	33.8%	36.4%

Table 4.3 – Children Are Successful in School

Measure	Frederick County	Carroll County	Harford County	Howard County	Montgomery County	Washington County	Maryland
8th Grade Math Performance Levels PARCC - Meeting or Exceeding	26.0%	38.0%	45.0%	48.1%	36.6%	6.1%	23.2%
3rd Grade Reading Performance Levels PARCC - Meeting or Exceeding	56.2%	46.7%	56.5%	49.0%	38.6%	29.4%	38.1%
8th Grade Reading Performance Levels PARCC - Meeting or Exceeding	41.0%	47.0%	56.5%	53.4%	50.9%	33.8%	40.4%
High School, Algebra MSA	93.6%	94.6%	91.3%	94.4%	89.5%	92.7%	83.7%
High School, Biology MSA	93.1%	92.8%	90.9%	94.4%	91.3%	91.3%	84.6%
High School, English MSA	90.8%	90.9%	91.3%	91.5%	85.7%	84.7%	80.9%
Grade 5, Science MSA	76.6%	78.3%	71.7%	76.2%	70.1%	65.7%	63.3%
Grade 8, Science MSA	79.0%	84.6%	78.7%	82.5%	75.4%	67.1%	68.1%
Truancy	7.6%	5.4%	8.0%	4.5%	8.2%	8.2%	10.3%
Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation Incidents Rate	7.9	6.6	2.6	5.2	3.5	8.1	5.3
Percentage of Students Suspended	2.9%	2.4%	4.9%	2.5%	1.2%	2.0%	4.0%
Percentage of middle school youth who were ever bullied on school property	45.1%	49.6%	44.8%	39.1%	39.5%	41.0%	40.9%
Percentage of middle school youth who were ever bullied electronically	21.6%	29.1%	24.3%	18.0%	20.1%	19.6%	19.7%
Percentage of high school youth who were bullied on school property during past year	22.4%	23.7%	21.8%	17.3%	17.5%	19.8%	17.7%
Percentage of high school youth who were bullied on electronically during past year	16.6%	18.6%	16.1%	12.4%	14.4%	13.8%	13.8%

Table 4.3 – Children Are Successful in School

Measure	Frederick County	Carroll County	Harford County	Howard County	Montgomery County	Washington County	Maryland
Percentage of high school youth who did not go to school because they felt unsafe in the last 30 days	5.2%	3.4%	4.9%	3.7%	5.8%	4.6%	6.0%









Youth will Complete School

The following table describes the measures included within the Youth Will Complete School result area as well as the source and most recent time period of the data gathered and analyzed for this assessment.

Table 5.1 – Youth Will Complete School

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
High school dropout rate, 4-year adjusted cohort	The four-year adjusted cohort dropout rate is defined as the number of students who leave school, for any reason other than death, within the four year period divided by the number of students who form the adjusted cohort	Maryland Report Card	2015
High School Program Completion	The number and percentage of graduates who completed course requirements that would qualify them for admission to the University System of Maryland.	Maryland Report Card	2015
High school graduation rate, 4-yr adjusted cohort	The four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate is the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who form the adjusted cohort for the graduating class	Maryland Report Card	2015
High school graduation rate, 5-yr adjusted cohort	The five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate is the number of students who graduate in five years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who form the adjusted cohort for the graduating class	Maryland Report Card	2014

The following table includes Frederick County's performance compared to Maryland overall for each measure based on the most recent data used in the prioritization process as well as the trend experienced in Frederick County (as available).

Table 5.2 – Youth Will Complete School		
Measure	Frederick County Compared to MD	Frederick County Trend
High school dropout rate, 4-year adjusted cohort		
High School Program Completion		
High school graduation rate, 4-yr adjusted cohort		
High school graduation rate, 5-yr adjusted cohort		

Data pertaining to each of the aforementioned measures for the most recently available year can be found in the table below. Frederick County's performance on each measure was compared to Maryland's performance to determine area where Frederick County needs improvement. For informational purposes, five peer counties were also included as a reference by which to compare Frederick County's experience.

Table 5.3 – Youth Will Complete School							
Measure	Frederick County	Carroll County	Harford County	Howard County	Montgomery County	Washington County	Maryland
High school dropout rate, 4-year adjusted cohort	3.5%	3.0%	6.8%	3.7%	5.7%	5.6%	8.1%
High School Program Completion	71.4%	42.5%	49.7%	63.9%	75.6%	59.8%	59.0%
High school graduation rate, 4-yr adjusted cohort	93.5%	≥95.0%	89.9%	93.5%	89.4%	91.2%	87.0%
High school graduation rate, 5-yr adjusted cohort	93.7%	≥95.0%	91.3%	94.5%	92.0%	91.8%	88.7%

Youth have Opportunities for Employment or Career Readiness









The following table describes the measures included within the Youth have Opportunities for Employment or Career Readiness result area as well as the source and most recent time period of the data gathered and analyzed for this assessment.

Table 6.1 – Youth have Opportunities for Employment or Career Readiness

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
Educational Attainment - At Least high school diploma or equivalent - 18-24 Age Group	Percentage of population ages 18-24 who have at least high school diploma or equivalent	Governor's Office for Children	2014
Educational Attainment - At Least high school diploma or equivalent - 25+ Age Group	Percentage of population ages 25+ who have at least high school diploma or equivalent	American Community Survey	2014
% of 16-24 year olds in Labor Force	# of 16-24 year olds in Labor Force as percentage of total 16-24 population	Governor's Office for Children	2014
Youth Not in School and Not Working (% ages 16-24)	The percentage of the population ages 16 to 24 who are not enrolled in school and who are not working (either unemployed or not in the labor force).	Opportunity Index	2015

The following table includes Frederick County's performance compared to Maryland overall for each measure based on the most recent data used in the prioritization process as well as the trend experienced in Frederick County (as available).

Table 6.2 – Youth have Opportunities for Employment or Career Readiness

Measure	Frederick County Compared to MD	Frederick County Trend
Educational Attainment - At Least high school diploma or equivalent - 18-24 Age Group		
Educational Attainment - At Least high school diploma or equivalent - 25+ Age Group		
% of 16-24 year olds in Labor Force		
Youth Not in School and Not Working (% ages 16-24)		

Data pertaining to each of the aforementioned measures for the most recently available year can be found in the table below. Frederick County's performance on each measure was compared to Maryland's performance to determine area where Frederick County needs improvement. For informational purposes, five peer counties were also included as a reference by which to compare Frederick County's experience.

Table 6.3 – Youth have Opportunities for Employment or Career Readiness

Measure	Frederick County	Carroll County	Harford County	Howard County	Montgomery County	Washington County	Maryland
Educational Attainment - At Least high school diploma or equivalent - 18-24 Age Group	91.6%	96.1%	88.9%	88.6%	86.5%	75.1%	87.8%
Educational Attainment - At Least high school diploma or equivalent - 25+ Age Group	92.5%	92.1%	93.5%	95.5%	90.9%	86.8%	89.6%
% of 16-24 year olds in Labor Force	66.7%	66.7%	59.1%	52.8%	56.4%	61.2%	58.3%
Youth Not in School and Not Working (% ages 16-24)	8.5%	9.4%	10.7%	7.9%	8.1%	19.1%	11.8%

Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families

The following table describes the measures included within the Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families result area as well as the source and most recent time period of the data gathered and analyzed for this assessment.

Table 7.1 – Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
% of Students receiving free and reduced school meals	<p>Number and percent of students receiving free and reduced meals at school in Maryland by county. Numbers included all elementary, middle and high school students receiving free and reduced meals during that school year as reported to the Maryland State Department of Education.</p> <p>Percent is determined by dividing the number of students receiving free and reduced meals in elementary, middle and high school by total enrollment of students</p>	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2015

Table 7.1 – Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
	in elementary, middle and high school.		
Child Hunger - Food Insecurity Rate	Food insecurity refers to USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food insecure children are those children living in households experiencing food insecurity.	Feeding America	2014
Percentage of Food Insecure Children Ineligible for Assistance	Percentage of children who are food insecure but are likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs (oncomes above 185% of poverty)	Feeding America	2014
Out-of-Home Placement - Rate of Entry	The rate of entry into out of home placement is the number of children who enter placement during the fiscal year	Governor's Office for Children	2015
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	Percent of all students who are eligible for free/reduced price lunches	Community Commons	2013-2014
Youth Homelessness	Percent of Public School Children Who Are Homeless Out of Total Enrollment on September 30th of Each School Year	Governor's Office for Children	2012-2013
Violent Crime Rate	Violent Crime includes murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault per 1,000 persons	Governor's Office for Children	2013
% of Unaccompanied homeless youth under 18, sheltered	Percentage of total unaccompanied homeless youth under age 18 who are sheltered	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Point-in Time Data	2015
% of Unaccompanied homeless youth 18-24, sheltered	Percentage of total unaccompanied homeless youth ages 18-24 who are sheltered	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Point-in Time Data	2015
Jail Incarceration Rate per 100,000 county population age 15-64	Jail incarceration rate is per-capita incarceration at one point in time per 100,000 county resident population aged 15 to 64 in the applicable year	Vera Institute of Justice	2013

Table 7.1 – Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
Jail Admission Rate per 100,000 county population age 15-64	Jail admissions are the number of times people enter the jail in a year. This indicator is not a measurement of unique people, as some may be sent to jail multiple times in given year. This measurement also does not count movements to court or medical services, only new admissions to jail. Jail admissions rate is per-capita admissions per 100,000 county residents age 15-64	Vera Institute of Justice	2013
Percentage of middle school youth Felt sad and hopeless during past year	Percentage of middle school youth Felt sad and hopeless during past year	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of middle school youth Seriously thought about killing themselves	Percentage of middle school youth Seriously thought about killing themselves	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of high school youth Felt sad and hopeless	Percentage of high school youth Felt sad and hopeless	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of high school youth Seriously considered attempting suicide during past year	Percentage of high school youth Seriously considered attempting suicide during past year	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of high school youth Made a suicide plan during past year	Percentage of high school youth Made a suicide plan during past year	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of middle school youth Ate breakfast on all 7 days during the week	Percentage of middle school youth Ate breakfast on all 7 days during the week	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of high school youth who ate fruit or drank 100% fruit juices one or more times per day for during the past week	Percentage of high school youth who ate fruit or drank 100% fruit juices one or more times per day for during the past week	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of high school youth Ate vegetables three or more times per day during past week	Percentage of high school youth Ate vegetables three or more times per day during past week	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014

Table 7.1 – Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
Percentage of high school youth Drank soda one or more times per day during past week	Percentage of high school youth Drank soda one or more times per day during past week	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
% of Households Receiving SNAP Benefits (ACS)	Estimated percentage of households receiving the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits	Community Commons	2010-2014
Food Access - SNAP-Authorized Food Stores Rate per 10,000 population	The number of SNAP-authorized food stores as a rate per 10,000 population. SNAP-authorized stores include grocery stores as well as supercenters, specialty food stores, and convenience stores that are authorized to accept SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits.	Community Commons	2016
Food Access - WIC-Authorized Food Stores Rate per 100,000 population	The number of food stores and other retail establishments per 100,000 population that are authorized to accept WIC Program (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) benefits and that carry designated WIC foods and food Categories.	Community Commons	2010

The following table includes Frederick County's performance compared to Maryland overall for each measure based on the most recent data used in the prioritization process as well as the trend experienced in Frederick County (as available).

Table 7.2 – Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families







Measure	Frederick County Compared to MD	Frederick County Trend
% of Students receiving free and reduced school meals		
Child Hunger - Food Insecurity Rate		
Percentage of Food Insecure Children Ineligible for Assistance		

Table 7.2 – Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families


































Measure	Frederick County Compared to MD	Frederick County Trend
Out-of-Home Placement - Rate of Entry		
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch		N/A
Youth Homelessness		
Violent Crime Rate		
% of Unaccompanied homeless youth under 18, sheltered	N/A	N/A
% of Unaccompanied homeless youth 18-24, sheltered		N/A
Jail Incarceration Rate per 100,000 county population age 15-64		
Jail Admission Rate per 100,000 county population age 15-64		
Percentage of middle school youth Felt sad and hopeless during past year		
Percentage of middle school youth Seriously thought about killing themselves		
Percentage of high school youth Felt sad and hopeless		
Percentage of high school youth Seriously considered attempting suicide during past year		
Percentage of high school youth Made a suicide plan during past year		
Percentage of middle school youth Ate breakfast on all 7 days during the week		
Percentage of high school youth who ate fruit or drank 100% fruit juices one or more times per day for during the past week		
Percentage of high school youth Ate vegetables three or more times per day during past week		

Table 7.2 – Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families

Measure	Frederick County Compared to MD	Frederick County Trend
Percentage of high school youth Drank soda one or more times per day during past week		
% of Households Receiving SNAP Benefits (ACS)		N/A
Food Access - SNAP-Authorized Food Stores Rate per 10,000 population		N/A
Food Access - WIC-Authorized Food Stores Rate per 100,000 population		N/A

Data pertaining to each of the aforementioned measures for the most recently available year can be found in the table below. Frederick County's performance on each measure was compared to Maryland's performance to determine area where Frederick County needs improvement. For informational purposes, five peer counties were also included as a reference by which to compare Frederick County's experience.

Table 7.3 – Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families

Measure	Frederick County	Carroll County	Harford County	Howard County	Montgomery County	Washington County	Maryland
% of Students receiving free and reduced school meals	24.1%	20.4%	31.8%	21.0%	36.2%	50.0%	46.1%
Child Hunger - Food Insecurity Rate	16.4%	16.9%	18.2%	13.8%	13.9%	23.0%	18.3%
Percentage of Food Insecure Children Ineligible for Assistance	48.0%	61.0%	52.0%	63.0%	45.0%	33.0%	41.0%
Out-of-Home Placement - Rate of Entry	5.1	0.4	7.2	2.0	3.4	10.7	7.5
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	26.2%	18.9%	30.5%	19.2%	34.2%	48.8%	44.2%
Youth Homelessness	1.7%	0.7%	1.0%	0.9%	0.6%	2.4%	1.8%

Table 7.3 – Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families

Measure	Frederick County	Carroll County	Harford County	Howard County	Montgomery County	Washington County	Maryland
Violent Crime Rate	2.5	2.0	2.7	2.1	1.7	2.6	4.7
% of Unaccompanied homeless youth under 18, sheltered	N/A	N/A	100.0%	N/A	N/A	0.0%	40.7%
% of Unaccompanied homeless youth 18-24, sheltered	50.0%	100.0%	100.0%	83.3%	92.6%	100.0%	71.4%
Jail Incarceration Rate per 100,000 county population age 15-64	185.8	216.9	252.4	140.6	112.1	367.3	286.9
Jail Admission Rate per 100,000 county population age 15-64	1,992.80	1,592.10	2,683.90	1,763.20	966.50	2,506.30	3,807.00
Percentage of middle school youth Felt sad and hopeless during past year	18.5%	18.6%	18.0%	18.2%	18.7%	20.0%	21.3%
Percentage of middle school youth Seriously thought about killing themselves	15.9%	13.6%	16.8%	15.7%	15.5%	18.2%	17.6%
Percentage of high school youth Felt sad and hopeless	27.9%	25.8%	26.8%	23.5%	27.5%	26.8%	26.8%
Percentage of high school youth Seriously considered attempting suicide during past year	16.7%	15.8%	16.0%	15.0%	15.6%	17.8%	15.9%
Percentage of high school youth Made a suicide plan during past year	13.1%	11.5%	12.4%	11.5%	11.8%	14.5%	12.7%
Percentage of middle school youth Ate breakfast on all 7 days during the week	57.5%	61.8%	55.6%	58.4%	58.7%	46.0%	53.3%
Percentage of high school youth who ate fruit or drank 100% fruit juices one or more times per day for during the past week	60.0%	57.4%	57.0%	61.6%	64.8%	54.2%	56.6%

Table 7.3 – Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families

Measure	Frederick County	Carroll County	Harford County	Howard County	Montgomery County	Washington County	Maryland
Percentage of high school youth Ate vegetables three or more times per day during past week	13.2%	11.4%	12.6%	15.1%	16.4%	12.8%	13.4%
Percentage of high school youth Drank soda one or more times per day during past week	15.0%	17.0%	17.6%	10.0%	10.7%	23.4%	16.6%
% of Households Receiving SNAP Benefits (ACS)	6.3%	6.2%	7.6%	4.8%	5.7%	13.8%	10.4%
Food Access - SNAP-Authorized Food Stores Rate per 10,000 population	5.3	5.8	6.3	3.8	3.8	7.5	7.1
Food Access - WIC-Authorized Food Stores Rate per 100,000 population	12.2	14.3	12.2	8.2	9.0	14.8	14.6

Families are Safe and Economically Stable

The following table describes the measures included within the Families are Safe and Economically Stable result area as well as the source and most recent time period of the data gathered and analyzed for this assessment.

Table 8.1 – Families are Safe and Economically Stable

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
Juvenile Arrest Rate	The juvenile arrest rate is the number of arrests of juveniles, ages 10-17, for violent and non-violent offenses, per 10,000 youths ages 10-17.	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014
Juvenile Violent Felony Offenses Rate	The number of juvenile violent felony offenses, ages 10-14 per 1,000 youths ages 10-14.	Governor's Office for Children	2014

Table 8.1 – Families are Safe and Economically Stable

Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
Juvenile Non-violent Felony Offenses Rate	The number of juvenile non-violent felony offenses, ages 10-14 per 1,000 youths ages 10-14.	Governor's Office for Children	2014
12-month Juvenile Rearrests	the percentage of juveniles re-arrested one year after release	Governor's Office for Children	2014
Child maltreatment rate	Number of total indicated findings for physical and sexual abuse, mental injury-abuse, neglect, and mental injury-neglect among children per 1,000 children under 18 years of age	Maryland SHIP	2014
Percent of Children in Poverty	The share of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014
Children living below 50% of poverty	The share of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes less than 50 percent of the federal poverty level, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Data is available by County	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014
Children living below 100% of poverty	The share of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Data is available by County	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014
Children living below 200% of poverty	The share of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Data is available by County	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014
Work force involvement - two parent households - one or both parents in workforce	Number of children under 18 living in 2 parent households with respective work force involvement of parents	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014
Work force involvement - single fathers in workforce	Number of children under 18 living with single fathers and respective work force involvement	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014

Table 8.1 – Families are Safe and Economically Stable























Measure	Description	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Data Available
Work force involvement - single mothers in workforce	Number of children under 18 living with single mothers and respective work force involvement	Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center	2014
Percentage of middle school youth Lived away from parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during past year	Percentage of middle school youth Lived away from parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during past year	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of middle school youth Usually slept at a friend's, relative's, or stranger's home at night during past year	Percentage of middle school youth Usually slept at a friend's, relative's, or stranger's home at night during past year	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of high school youth Lived away from parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during past year	Percentage of high school youth Lived away from parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during past year	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014
Percentage of high school youth Usually slept at a friend's, relative's, or stranger's home at night during past year	Percentage of high school youth Usually slept at a friend's, relative's, or stranger's home at night during past year	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	2014

The following table includes Frederick County's performance compared to Maryland overall for each measure based on the most recent data used in the prioritization process as well as the trend experienced in Frederick County (as available).

Table 8.2 – Families are Safe and Economically Stable

Measure	Frederick County Compared to MD	Frederick County Trend
Juvenile Arrest Rate		
Juvenile Violent Felony Offenses Rate		
Juvenile Non-violent Felony Offenses Rate		

Table 8.2 – Families are Safe and Economically Stable

Measure	Frederick County Compared to MD	Frederick County Trend
12-month Juvenile Rearrests		
Child maltreatment rate		
Percent of Children in Poverty		
Children living below 50% of poverty		
Children living below 100% of poverty		
Children living below 200% of poverty		
Work force involvement - two parent households - one or both parents in workforce		
Work force involvement - single fathers in workforce		
Work force involvement - single mothers in workforce		
Percentage of middle school youth Lived away from parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during past year		N/A
Percentage of middle school youth Usually slept at a friend's, relative's, or stranger's home at night during past year		N/A
Percentage of high school youth Lived away from parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during past year		N/A
Percentage of high school youth Usually slept at a friend's, relative's, or stranger's home at night during past year		N/A

Data pertaining to each of the aforementioned measures for the most recently available year can be found in the table below. Frederick County's performance on each measure was compared to Maryland's performance to determine area where Frederick County needs improvement. For informational purposes, five peer counties were also included as a reference by which to compare Frederick County's experience.

Table 8.3 – Families are Safe and Economically Stable

Measure	Frederick County	Carroll County	Harford County	Howard County	Montgomery County	Washington County	Maryland
Juvenile Arrest Rate	314.4	195.7	280.3	325.0	179.7	563.0	405.5
Juvenile Violent Felony Offenses Rate	0.8	0.3	1.1	1.1	0.7	2.6	2.3
Juvenile Non-violent Felony Offenses Rate	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.6	1.3
12-month Juvenile Rearrests	28.6%	50.0%	37.2%	56.5%	50.5%	46.5%	45.8%
Child maltreatment rate	7.3	3.7	14.1	2.7	5.1	13.6	9.9
Percent of Children in Poverty	8.3%	7.4%	9.8%	7.1%	8.9%	19.9%	13.8%
Children living below 50% of poverty	4.2%	3.3%	6.4%	3.2%	3.6%	10.3%	6.5%
Children living below 100% of poverty	8.3%	7.1%	11.3%	6.1%	8.4%	19.7%	13.2%
Children living below 200% of poverty	22.8%	16.5%	23.2%	15.0%	23.0%	39.6%	30.3%
Work force involvement - two parent households - one or both parents in workforce	99.7%	66.1%	98.7%	99.5%	99.2%	98.7%	99.1%
Work force involvement - single fathers in workforce	94.9%	92.7%	89.2%	99.7%	95.2%	87.1%	92.3%
Work force involvement - single mothers in workforce	83.9%	84.3%	82.8%	88.2%	88.3%	75.3%	82.2%
Percentage of middle school youth Lived away from parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during past year	2.3%	2.5%	2.2%	2.1%	3.2%	3.9%	3.2%

Table 8.3 – Families are Safe and Economically Stable

Measure	Frederick County	Carroll County	Harford County	Howard County	Montgomery County	Washington County	Maryland
Percentage of middle school youth Usually slept at a friend's, relative's, or stranger's home at night during past year	1.7%	1.4%	1.3%	0.8%	1.3%	1.9%	2.0%
Percentage of high school youth Lived away from parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned during past year	4.8%	3.6%	5.5%	4.3%	4.4%	5.1%	5.5%
Percentage of high school youth Usually slept at a friend's, relative's, or stranger's home at night during past year	1.7%	1.6%	1.9%	1.2%	1.5%	2.2%	2.0%

APPENDIX 3 | QUALITATIVE DATA FINDINGS

Qualitative data collected during this assessment included focus groups, a general community survey, and a key leader survey. Questionnaires and findings from each of these methods are included below.

Focus Groups

115 members of the Frederick County community participated in focus groups held throughout the county. Participants included parents, youth, and organizational leaders with knowledge of issues impacting children, youth, and families in Frederick County. Focus groups were held throughout the county with the following groups:

- April 26th - Juvenile Entry Diversion Initiative (JEDI) Parents (6 participants) and Youth (8 participants)
- May 2nd and May 5th – Family Partnership Parents (2 groups; total of 27 participants)
- May 2nd and May 5th – Family Partnership Youth (2 groups; total of 11 participants)
- May 2nd – Local Management Board and Interagency Early Childhood Committee (16 participants)
- May 3rd - Boys and Girls Club Parents (9 participants)
- May 3rd – Boys and Girls Club Youth (2 groups; total of 16 participants)
- June 24th - Centro Hispano de Frederick Parents (8 participants)
- June 29th - Asian American Center Parents (14 participants)

The questions asked during the focus groups varied based on the target audience. Each participant was given a sheet of paper containing their specific questions at the beginning of the focus group session. Participants were asked to write their responses and return this sheet of paper at the end of the session. In addition, they were asked to participate in group discussions on each question.

The groups aimed at gathering input from parents included the following questions:

1. What are the ages of your children?
2. How do you believe access to necessary child and family services have changed over the past five years?
3. What are the greatest strengths of the current delivery system? What about weaknesses?
4. What are the greatest challenges currently faced by Frederick County children and their families? Do those challenges vary based on the age of the child? If so, please respond by age group.
5. In which areas/neighborhoods are needs most significant?

6. What do you believe to be the most significant barriers to accessing services?
7. Do you feel that there is a sufficient level of cultural competence in the current service delivery system?
8. Do you feel that there is a sufficient level of family involvement in guiding the current service delivery system?

The groups aimed at gathering input from youth included the following questions:

1. How old are you? What grade are you in?
2. What do you like most about living in Frederick County
3. What do you think are the biggest problems that kids your age are experiencing today?
4. Are there certain areas or neighborhoods that you visit or live where these problems seem to be worse?
5. What support or programs do you wish were available for kids your age?

Lastly, the groups aimed at gathering input from organizations included the following questions:

1. How do you believe access to necessary child and family services have changed over the past five years?
2. What are the greatest strengths of the current delivery system? What about weaknesses?
3. What are the greatest challenges currently faced by Frederick County children and their families? Do those challenges vary based on the age of the child? If so, please respond by age group.
4. In which areas/neighborhoods are needs most significant?
5. What do you believe to be the most significant barriers to accessing services?
6. If you could change any aspect of the current service delivery system, what would you change?
7. What aspects of the current service delivery system are working well and should be maintained?
8. Do you feel that there is a sufficient level of cultural competence in the current service delivery system?
9. Do you feel that there is a sufficient level of family involvement in guiding the current service delivery system?

The feedback from the focus groups was diverse, but several key themes emerged, including:

- When asked how access to necessary child and family services has changed over the past five years, there was an inability to reach a consensus regarding the

directional change. It was noted that funding cuts have decreased the number and availability of some existing programs making access more difficult.

- Strengths of the current delivery system included the friendliness and helpfulness of staff, the strength of the programs that are offered, and the partnerships and levels of collaboration among agencies.
- A lack of awareness among community members on how to get assistive services was noted as the key weakness of the current delivery system. More community outreach and education regarding what is available is needed. Further, the ability to proactively receive help was noted as another area of improvement in Frederick County. Focus group participants noted that it is difficult for youth to receive services related to preventative interventions prior to entering the criminal justice system. Rather, they often only receive help once they get into trouble. This is related to another area of need mentioned during the sessions related to the lack of mentorship and guidance programs to help kids find their place in society. Language barriers and the lack of interpretative and translation services were also noted as barriers to access for the Asian American and Hispanic populations participating in focus groups.
- When asked to identify the greatest challenges faced by Frederick County children and their families, issues related to drugs and bullying/social media/technology arose in many of the focus group discussions. These were also areas that were commonly mentioned as having gotten worse over the most recent five years.
- Transportation was also noted as a significant barrier to accessing services. Based on the information gathered through the focus groups, the community does not feel that public transportation in Frederick County is a reliable means by which to travel. This is due to the extraneous time spent getting from place to place due to the structure of the bus schedule and the placement of bus stops. It was noted that if one needed to get somewhere located outside of Frederick City, public transit is not an option as buses do not travel to the outskirts of the county.

General Community Survey

A web-based survey was developed to gather additional input from the general public. The link to the survey was made available to the public via the OCF website. The survey was comprised of 23 questions which focused on gathering feedback on three key areas: the problems of various age cohorts in the community, the community's view of the GOC's strategic goals, and demographics.

In total, 138 community members started the survey. Please see below for the questions and results of the general community survey.

1. What do you consider to be the top three problems for children and families in your community? Please choose the top three for each age group.

Children 0-5

Q1 – Problems for Children 0-5		
Response	N	Percentage
Lack of affordable childcare	63	53.8%
Knowing what services are available	49	41.9%
Funding cuts/loss of services	44	37.6%
Lack of affordable housing	37	31.6%
Insufficient early education services	30	25.6%
Insufficient parental involvement and support	27	23.1%
Inadequate role models to mentor/positively influence	19	16.2%
Lack of after-school programs/activities/supervision	17	14.5%
Lack of affordable/available mental health services	14	12.0%
Lack of affordable, nutritious foods	12	10.3%
Lack of affordable/available primary healthcare	8	6.8%
Life Skills	7	6.0%
Lack of jobs/vocational training/career development	7	6.0%
Lack of affordable/available dental services	5	4.3%
Other (please specify)	3	2.6%

Children 6-12

Q1 – Problems for Children 6-12

Response	N	Percentage
Lack of after-school programs/activities/supervision	56	47.5%
Inadequate role models to mentor/positively influence	40	33.9%
Insufficient parental involvement and support	39	33.1%
Funding cuts/loss of services	35	29.7%
Lack of affordable housing	28	23.7%
Knowing what services are available	28	23.7%
Lack of affordable childcare	27	22.9%
Increase in gang activity/negative peer influences	22	18.6%
Lack of affordable/available mental health services	18	15.3%
Life Skills	11	9.3%
Substance abuse prevalence	10	8.5%
Lack of sex education programs/increase in teen pregnancy	8	6.8%
Lack of affordable/available primary healthcare	7	5.9%
Lack of affordable, nutritious foods	6	5.1%
Lack of affordable/available dental services	5	4.2%
Other (please specify)	3	2.5%
Lack of jobs/vocational training/career development	2	1.7%

Children 13-18

Q1 – Problems for Children 13-18		
Response	N	Percentage
Increase in gang activity/negative peer influences	45	38.8%
Inadequate role models to mentor/positively influence	38	32.8%
Insufficient parental involvement and support	33	28.4%
Lack of after-school programs/activities/supervision	27	23.3%
Lack of transitional programming/services for older youth	26	22.4%
Substance abuse prevalence	25	21.6%

Q1 – Problems for Children 13-18		
Response	N	Percentage
Insufficient transitional programs/services for older youth	24	20.7%
Funding cuts/loss of services	22	19.0%
Lack of jobs/vocational training/career development	20	17.2%
Life Skills	19	16.4%
Lack of affordable/available mental health services	16	13.8%
Lack of sex education programs/increase in teen pregnancy	14	12.1%
Knowing what services are available	13	11.2%
Lack of affordable housing	11	9.5%
Other (please specify)	6	5.2%
Lack of affordable/available dental services	3	2.6%
Lack of affordable childcare	2	1.7%
Lack of affordable, nutritious foods	1	0.9%
Lack of affordable/available primary healthcare	0	0.0%

Young Adults 19-24

Q1 – Problems for Young Adults 19-24		
Response	N	Percentage
Lack of jobs/vocational training/career development	48	41.7%
Insufficient transitional programs/services for older youth	35	30.4%
Lack of affordable housing	34	29.6%
Substance abuse prevalence	34	29.6%
Life Skills	29	25.2%
Knowing what services are available	28	24.3%
Increase in gang activity/negative peer influences	25	21.7%
Inadequate role models to mentor/positively influence	23	20.0%

Q1 – Problems for Young Adults 19-24		
Response	N	Percentage
Funding cuts/loss of services	18	15.7%
Lack of affordable/available mental health services	17	14.8%
Lack of affordable/available primary healthcare	9	7.8%
Lack of affordable childcare	7	6.1%
Insufficient parental involvement and support	6	5.2%
Lack of affordable/available dental services	6	5.2%
Lack of sex education programs/increase in teen pregnancy	5	4.3%
Lack of after-school programs/activities/supervision	4	3.5%
Other (please specify)	3	2.6%
Lack of affordable, nutritious foods	2	1.7%

2. What do you believe are the strengths of the current service delivery system in your community? Please select up to three.

Q2 – Strengths of System		
Response	N	Percentage
Dedication and commitment of service providers	64	63.4%
Coordination/collaboration/partnering between agencies	51	50.5%
Availability of resources/services for families	37	36.6%
Convenient/central services	18	17.8%
Variety/availability of programs	16	15.8%
Specific programs (please specify)	15	14.9%
Other (please specify)	4	4.0%

3. What barriers exist that make it difficult for children and families in your community to access the current service delivery system? Please select up to three.

Q3 – Barriers to System		
Response	N	Percentage
Awareness of services/resources	56	51.9%
Transportation/Lack of regional services	42	38.9%
Funding cuts to programs and services	40	37.0%
Language/cultural barriers/lack of interpreters	37	34.3%
Affordability of services	28	25.9%
Parenting skills/knowledge/support	28	25.9%
Eligibility criteria	27	25.0%
Services not available when working parents can access them	22	20.4%
Communication between agencies	17	15.7%
Service/agency hours	8	7.4%
Other (please specify)	1	0.9%

4. If you could improve any aspect(s) of the current service delivery system, what would you chose? You may select up to three.

Q4 – Improvements to System		
Response	N	Percentage
Improve response to the housing/homeless crisis	39	36.1%
Increase access to good paying jobs for parents	38	35.2%
Improve/provide transportation	36	33.3%
Increase vocational programming for young adults	33	30.6%
Improve language/cultural capabilities	32	29.6%
Increase awareness of services	29	26.9%
Increase focus on parenting strategies	28	25.9%

Q4 – Improvements to System		
Response	N	Percentage
Improve access to services	28	25.9%
Eliminate gaps in services	24	22.2%
Improve communication between agencies	14	13.0%
Increase array of services available	10	9.3%

5. Listed below are a number of social services and supports. On a scale of 1 to 4 (with 1 being “meets no needs” and 4 being “meets all needs”) indicate how well these services and supports are currently meeting the needs of residents in Frederick County. If you are unaware of a service in Frederick County that would meet a specific need, please choose “N/A”.

Q5 – Needs Being Met						
Service	Meets No Needs	Meets Some Needs	Meets Most Needs	Meets All Needs	N	Mean
Primary Healthcare Services	4	49	33	8	94	2.5
Organized Recreational Activities	5	46	38	4	93	2.4
Foster Care Services	2	49	26	3	80	2.4
Disability Services	2	48	36	0	86	2.4
Outpatient Mental Health Services	8	52	25	5	90	2.3
Mental Health Crisis Support Services	3	61	29	2	95	2.3
Literacy/Tutoring Support	5	48	27	1	81	2.3
Dental Services	8	59	19	4	90	2.2
After-school Programs	8	62	23	0	93	2.2
Parenting Skill Programs/Resources	7	65	17	3	92	2.2
Inpatient Mental Health Services	9	55	18	3	85	2.2
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Services	7	54	14	0	75	2.1
Childcare Services	8	73	15	1	97	2.1

Q5 – Needs Being Met						
Service	Meets No Needs	Meets Some Needs	Meets Most Needs	Meets All Needs	N	Mean
Emergency Shelter for Families	7	63	18	0	88	2.1
Low Income Housing Services	9	70	15	1	95	2.1
Homeless Services	5	70	17	0	92	2.1
Job Training/Internships for Young Adults	8	60	14	1	83	2.1
Addiction Services	7	61	14	0	82	2.1
Transportation Services	12	65	16	3	96	2.1
Mentoring Services	12	54	16	0	82	2.0
Support Services for 18-21 Year Olds	13	53	8	1	75	2.0
Violence/Drug Prevention for Young Adults	17	62	8	1	88	1.9
Transitional Housing for Older Youth	18	48	6	0	72	1.8

6. If you chose a response of "Meets No Needs" or "Meets Some Needs" in Question 5, please provide further explanation. For example: If you chose "Meets Some Needs" for Inpatient Mental Health Services, do you feel that the agencies offering these services are not providing a quality service or do you feel that the need for these services is greater than the ability of the agency(cies) to provide them?

Q6 – Reason Needs Not Met			
Service	Quality	Availability	N
Parenting Skill Programs/Resources	7	51	58
Job Training/Internships for Young Adults	5	52	57
Low Income Housing Services	7	63	70
Mental Health Crisis Support Services	7	47	54
Mentoring Services	5	49	54
Homeless Services	8	57	65
Support Services for 18-21 Year Olds	7	51	58

Q6 – Reason Needs Not Met			
Service	Quality	Availability	N
Childcare Services	9	61	70
Dental Services	8	49	57
Transitional Housing for Older Youth	8	51	59
Emergency Shelter for Families	6	55	61
Violence/Drug Prevention for Young Adults	15	52	67
Transportation Services	13	50	63
Outpatient Mental Health Services	10	38	48
Primary Healthcare Services	10	35	45
Literacy/Tutoring Support	7	37	44
Disability Services	7	33	40
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Services	13	39	52
Inpatient Mental Health Services	12	42	54
Addiction Services	14	46	60
After-school Programs	11	51	62
Foster Care Services	16	31	47
Organized Recreational Activities	11	31	42

7. On a scale of 1 to 4 (with 1 being “No competence” and 4 being “Full competence”, please rate the degree to which you feel that Frederick County's child and family service system is culturally competent.

Q7 – Cultural Competency						
	No Competence	Limited Competence	Moderate Competence	Full Competence	N	Mean
Degree to which Frederick County's service system is culturally competent	4	38	50	8	100	2.6

8. On a scale of 1 to 4 (with 1 being “no involvement” and 4 being “full involvement”), please rate the degree to which you feel that families are involved as decision-makers in Frederick County's service system for children and families.

Q8– Family Involvement						
	No Competence	Limited Competence	Moderate Competence	Full Competence	N	Mean
Degree to which you feel that families are involved as decision-makers	12	53	30	4	99	2.3

9. Please choose from the answers below to complete the following sentence. Incarceration has _____ on children and families in Frederick County?

Q9.1 – Impact of Incarceration		
Response	N	Percentage
A significant impact	82	80.4%
A slight impact	18	17.6%
No impact	2	2.0%
Total	102	100.0%

If “a significant impact” or “a slight impact” was chosen:

How has this problem changed over the past five years?

Q9.2 – Impact of Incarceration – Five-year Trend		
Response	N	Percentage
Remained the same	48	50.5%
Worsened	43	45.3%
Improved	4	4.2%
Total	95	100.0%

Are there sufficient programs or services available that help children and families of those who are incarcerated?

Q9.3 – Impact of Incarceration – Available Programs or Services		
Response	N	Percentage
No	51	52.0%
Unsure	38	38.8%
Yes	9	9.2%
Total	98	100.0%

What are the main impacts that incarceration has on children and families in Frederick County?

- Responses to this question included a wide variety of issues. The mentioned impacts of incarceration on children and families included financial implications, lack of a parental figure and support, emotional and mental health implications, and low self-esteem.

10. Please choose from the answers below to complete the following sentence.
Disconnected youth, those aged 16-24 who are neither working nor in school,
_____ for residents of Frederick County?

Q10.1 – Concern regarding Disconnected Youth		
Response	N	Percentage
Are a significant concern	70	70.7%
Are a slight concern	26	26.3%
Are not a concern	3	3.0%
Total	99	100.0%

If “a significant concern” or “a slight concern” was chosen:
How has this problem changed over the past five years?

Q10.2 - Disconnected Youth – Five-year Trend		
Response	N	Percentage
Worsened	66	71.0%
Remained the same	24	25.8%
Improved	3	3.2%
Total	93	100.0%

Are there sufficient programs or services available that help to reduce the number of disconnected youth?

Q10.3 – Disconnected Youth – Available Programs or Services		
Response	N	Percentage
No	59	62.1%
Unsure	33	34.7%
Yes	3	3.2%
Total	95	100.0%

Are there any other comments related to disconnected youth that you feel are important to include in this Community Needs Assessment?

- Responses regarding disconnected youth included problems related to transportation, finances, lack of awareness of existing programs, lack of parental and youth engagement, and the lack of services and programs for this population outside of Frederick City.

11. Please choose from the answers below to complete the following sentence.
Childhood hunger is _____ in Frederick County?

Q11.1 – Problem of Childhood Hunger		
Response	N	Percentage
A significant problem	52	52.0%
A slight problem	42	42.0%
Not a problem	6	6.0%
Total	100	100.0%

If “a significant problem” or “a slight problem” was chosen:
How has this problem changed over the past five years?

Q11.2 - Childhood Hunger – Five-year Trend		
Response	N	Percentage
Worsened	42	44.7%
Remained the same	32	34.0%
Improved	20	21.3%
Total	94	100.0%

Are there sufficient programs or services available that help to reduce childhood hunger?

Q11.3 – Childhood Hunger – Available Programs or Services		
Response	N	Percentage
Unsure	33	35.1%
No	33	35.1%
Yes	28	29.8%
Total	94	100.0%

Are there any other comments related to childhood hunger that you feel are important to include in this Community Needs Assessment?

- Responses included the need to increase access to healthy food options, the need for programs related to teaching children about nutrition and healthy lifestyles, and more communication and outreach regarding available services. The Blessing in a Backpack program was specifically mentioned by numerous respondents as being a highly-utilized and highly-appreciated service in the county.

12. Please choose from the answers below to complete the following sentence. Youth homelessness is _____ in Frederick County?

Q12.1 – Problem of Youth Homelessness		
Response	N	Percentage
A significant problem	57	57.6%
A slight problem	39	39.4%
Not a problem	3	3.0%
Total	99	100.0%

If “a significant problem” or “a slight problem” was chosen:

How has this problem changed over the past five years?

Q12.2 – Youth Homelessness – Five-year Trend		
Response	N	Percentage
Worsened	63	66.3%
Remained the same	30	31.6%
Improved	2	2.1%
Total	95	100.0%

Are there sufficient programs or services available that help to reduce youth homelessness?

Q12.3 – Youth Homelessness – Available Programs or Services		
Response	N	Percentage
No	49	51.0%
Unsure	36	37.5%
Yes	11	11.5%
Total	96	100.0%

Are there any other comments related to youth homelessness that you feel are important to include in this Community Needs Assessment?

- Many respondents commented that the determining the number of homeless youth is tricky given that those who are living at a friend's house due to familial issues are not considered homeless but are legally unaccompanied. Additionally, the need for long-term family shelters and emergency shelters exists in Frederick County.

13. Please choose from the answers below to complete the following sentence.
Bullying/harassment/intimidation is _____ for the youth of Frederick County?

Q13.1 – Concern regarding Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation		
Response	N	Percentage
A significant issue/concern	77	77.8%
A slight issue/concern	20	20.2%
Not an issue/concern	2	2.0%
Total	99	100.0%

If “a significant problem” or “a slight problem” was chosen:
How has this problem changed over the past five years?

Q13.2 - Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation – Five-year Trend		
Response	N	Percentage
Worsened	63	67.0%
Remained the same	24	25.5%
Improved	7	7.4%
Total	94	100.0%

Are there sufficient programs or services available that help to reduce bullying/harassment/intimidation?

Q13.3 – Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation – Available Programs or Services		
Response	N	Percentage
No	48	50.0%
Unsure	33	34.4%
Yes	15	15.6%
Total	96	100.0%

Are there any other comments related to bullying/harassment/intimidation that you feel are important to include in this Community Needs Assessment?

- Generally, responses included the need for schools to hold bullies accountable as well as for the parents of bullies to be held accountable. The increase in bullying was noted as being associated with increased use of social media and increased suicides or suicidal thoughts among children and youth.

14. Are there any other problems or issues impacting the children and families of Frederick County that you feel should be addressed in this Community Needs Assessment?

- Responses to this question varied greatly, ranging from the need for more home visits to help pregnant mothers and infants to the need for additional help for those with mental and substance abuse issues. Housing, mentoring services, education, and the need for additional inclusion of minorities in these processes were all also mentioned.

15. What is your ZIP code of residence?

Q15 – ZIP Code of Residence		
Response	N	Percentage
21701	34	35.4%
21702	18	18.8%
21703	8	8.3%
21774	5	5.2%
21788	5	5.2%
21754	5	5.2%
21771	4	4.2%
21769	3	3.1%
21704	3	3.1%
21773	2	2.1%
21727	1	1.0%

Q15 – ZIP Code of Residence		
Response	N	Percentage
21798	1	1.0%
Other	1	1.0%
21716	1	1.0%
21710	1	1.0%
21758	1	1.0%
21770	1	1.0%
21757	1	1.0%
21755	1	1.0%
21790	0	0.0%
21793	0	0.0%
21780	0	0.0%
21718	0	0.0%
21777	0	0.0%
21778	0	0.0%
Total	96	100.0%

16. What is your gender?

Q16 – Gender		
Response	N	Percentage
Female	91	91.0%
Male	9	9.0%
Total	100	100.0%

17. What is your age?

Q17 - Age		
Response	N	Percentage
45-64 years	50	50.5%
25-44 years	37	37.4%
65-74 years	8	8.1%
75 years and over	3	3.0%
19-24 years	1	1.0%
6-12 years	0	0.0%
13-18 years	0	0.0%
0 -5 years	0	0.0%
Total	99	100.0%

18. What is your child's age (if applicable)? If you have more than one child, please select the appropriate age group and write the number of children within that age group in the text box.

Q18 – Child's Age		
Response	N	Percentage
13-18 years	28	37.8%
19-24 years	22	29.7%
6-12 years	22	29.7%
25 years or older	19	25.7%
0-5 years	18	24.3%

19. What is your race?

Q19 - Race		
Response	N	Percentage
White/Caucasian	78	81.3%
Black or African American	6	6.3%
Multiracial	6	6.3%
Other (please specify)	4	4.2%
Asian	1	1.0%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	1.0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Total	96	100.0%

20. What is your ethnicity?

Q20 - Ethnicity		
Response	N	Percentage
Non-Hispanic/Latino	65	78.3%
Other (please specify)	11	13.3%
Hispanic/Latino	7	8.4%
Total	83	100.0%

21. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Q21 - Education		
Response	N	Percentage
Master's Degree	37	37.8%
Bachelor's Degree	32	32.7%
Associate's Degree	9	9.2%

Q21 – Education		
Response	N	Percentage
Some College	9	9.2%
Doctorate	7	7.1%
High School Diploma or GED	3	3.1%
Other (please specify)	1	1.0%
Did not complete high school/Still in school	0	0.0%
Total	98	100.0%

22. What is your employment status?

Q22 - Employment		
Response	N	Percentage
Employed full-time	66	67.3%
Employed part-time	11	11.2%
Retired	9	9.2%
More than one job	3	3.1%
Homemaker	3	3.1%
Student	2	2.0%
Other (please specify)	2	2.0%
Unemployed/short-term (less than 27 weeks)	1	1.0%
Unemployed long-term (27 weeks or longer)	1	1.0%
Person with disabilities unable to work	0	0.0%
Total	98	100.0%

23. What is your annual household income?

Q23 – Household Income		
Response	N	Percentage
\$50,000 to \$99,999	41	41.4%
Prefer not to respond	18	18.2%
Over \$100,000	17	17.2%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	17	17.2%
Less than \$25,000	6	6.1%
Total	99	100.0%

Key Leader Survey

A web-based survey was also developed to gather input from the key organizational leaders in the community. The link to the survey was sent directly to organizations. The survey was comprised of 15 questions which focused on gathering feedback on two key areas: the problems of various age cohorts in the community and the leader's view of the GOC's strategic goals.

In total, 140 key leaders started the survey. Please see below for the questions and results of the general community survey.

1. Please select the category that best describes your organization.

Q1 – Organization Description		
Response	N	Percentage
Other (please specify)	36	26.3%
Non-profit organization	35	25.5%
Child/youth agency	33	24.1%
Healthcare provider	18	13.1%
Public school	14	10.2%
Faith-based organization	1	0.7%

Q1 – Organization Description		
Response	N	Percentage
Total	137	100.0%

2. Based on your personal and/or professional experiences, what do you consider to be the top three problems for children and families in Frederick County? Please choose the top three for each age group.

Children 0-5

Q2 – Problems for Children 0-5		
Response	N	Percentage
Lack of affordable childcare	63	46.3%
Knowing what services are available	57	41.9%
Lack of affordable housing	48	35.3%
Insufficient parental involvement and support	48	35.3%
Funding cuts/loss of services	44	32.4%
Insufficient early education services	29	21.3%
Inadequate role models to mentor/positively influence	24	17.6%
Lack of affordable/available mental health services	22	16.2%
Life Skills	14	10.3%
Lack of affordable, nutritious foods	13	9.6%
Other (please specify)	11	8.1%
Lack of affordable/available primary healthcare	8	5.9%
Lack of after-school programs/activities/supervision	8	5.9%
Lack of affordable/available dental services	7	5.1%
Lack of jobs/vocational training/career development	3	2.2%

Children 6-12

Q2 – Problems for Children 6-12		
Response	N	Percentage
Insufficient parental involvement and support	61	47.3%
Inadequate role models to mentor/positively influence	42	32.6%
Lack of after-school programs/activities/supervision	41	31.8%
Lack of affordable housing	34	26.4%
Funding cuts/loss of services	33	25.6%
Knowing what services are available	30	23.3%
Lack of affordable childcare	27	20.9%
Lack of affordable/available mental health services	25	19.4%
Increase in gang activity/negative peer influences	24	18.6%
Life Skills	20	15.5%
Substance abuse prevalence	9	7.0%
Other (please specify)	9	7.0%
Lack of affordable, nutritious foods	9	7.0%
Lack of affordable/available dental services	7	5.4%
Lack of affordable/available primary healthcare	4	3.1%
Lack of jobs/vocational training/career development	3	2.3%
Lack of sex education programs/increase in teen pregnancy	3	2.3%

Children 13-18

Q2 – Problems for Children 13-18		
Response	N	Percentage
Insufficient parental involvement and support	54	41.5%
Increase in gang activity/negative peer influences	47	36.2%
Inadequate role models to mentor/positively influence	43	33.1%

Q2 – Problems for Children 13-18		
Response	N	Percentage
Insufficient transitional programs/services for older youth	32	24.6%
Life Skills	28	21.5%
Funding cuts/loss of services	25	19.2%
Substance abuse prevalence	24	18.5%
Lack of affordable/available mental health services	23	17.7%
Knowing what services are available	20	15.4%
Lack of affordable housing	16	12.3%
Lack of after-school programs/activities/supervision	15	11.5%
Lack of jobs/vocational training/career development	14	10.8%
Lack of transitional programming/services for older youth	13	10.0%
Lack of sex education programs/increase in teen pregnancy	9	6.9%
Other (please specify)	7	5.4%
Lack of affordable/available dental services	5	3.8%
Lack of affordable, nutritious foods	5	3.8%
Lack of affordable childcare	4	3.1%
Lack of affordable/available primary healthcare	1	0.8%

Young Adults 19-24

Q2 – Problems for Young Adults 19-24		
Response	N	Percentage
Lack of jobs/vocational training/career development	48	37.5%
Life Skills	42	32.8%
Insufficient transitional programs/services for older youth	36	28.1%
Lack of affordable housing	36	28.1%
Substance abuse prevalence	35	27.3%

Q2 – Problems for Young Adults 19-24		
Response	N	Percentage
Increase in gang activity/negative peer influences	32	25.0%
Inadequate role models to mentor/positively influence	30	23.4%
Knowing what services are available	28	21.9%
Lack of affordable/available mental health services	27	21.1%
Funding cuts/loss of services	22	17.2%
Insufficient parental involvement and support	14	10.9%
Lack of affordable/available primary healthcare	8	6.3%
Lack of affordable childcare	7	5.5%
Lack of sex education programs/increase in teen pregnancy	4	3.1%
Lack of affordable/available dental services	4	3.1%
Lack of affordable, nutritious foods	3	2.3%
Other (please specify)	2	1.6%
Lack of after-school programs/activities/supervision	0	0.0%

3. Based on your knowledge and experiences working with children and families in Frederick County, what are the strengths of the current service delivery system? Please select up to three.

Q3 – Strengths of System		
Response	N	Percentage
Dedication and commitment of service providers	91	73.4%
Coordination/collaboration/partnering between agencies	68	54.8%
Availability of resources/services for families	47	37.9%
Convenient/central services	25	20.2%
Variety/availability of programs	20	16.1%
Specific programs (please specify)	15	12.1%
Other (please specify)	5	4.0%

4. Based on your knowledge and experiences working with children and families in Frederick County, what barriers exist that make it difficult for children and families to access the current service delivery system? Please select up to three.

Q4 – Barriers to System		
Response	N	Percentage
Awareness of services/resources	63	50.4%
Transportation/Lack of regional services	54	43.2%
Funding cuts to programs and services	47	37.6%
Parenting skills/knowledge/support	41	32.8%
Language/cultural barriers/lack of interpreters	37	29.6%
Services not available when working parents can access them	36	28.8%
Communication between agencies	25	20.0%
Affordability of services	21	16.8%
Eligibility criteria	18	14.4%
Service/agency hours	8	6.4%
Other (please specify)	4	3.2%

5. If you could improve any aspect(s) of the current service delivery system, what would you chose? You may select up to three.

Q5 – Improvements to System		
Response	N	Percentage
Improve/provide transportation	43	34.1%
Increase focus on parenting strategies	41	32.5%
Increase awareness of services	41	32.5%
Improve access to services	40	31.7%
Improve communication between agencies	32	25.4%
Increase vocational programming for young adults	30	23.8%

Q5 – Improvements to System		
Response	N	Percentage
Eliminate gaps in services	29	23.0%
Improve response to the housing/homeless crisis	29	23.0%
Increase access to good paying jobs for parents	29	23.0%
Improve language/cultural capabilities	27	21.4%
Increase array of services available	11	8.7%

6. Listed below are a number of social services and supports. On a scale of 1 to 4 (with 1 being “meets no needs” and 4 being “meets all needs”) indicate how well these services and supports are currently meeting the needs of residents in Frederick County. If you are unaware of a service in Frederick County that would meet a specific need, please choose “N/A”.

Q6 – Needs Being Met						
Service	Meets No Needs	Meets Some Needs	Meets Most Needs	Meets All Needs	N	Mean
Organized Recreational Activities	2	43	43	7	95	2.6
Foster Care Services	2	41	39	6	88	2.6
Primary Healthcare Services	2	38	48	4	92	2.6
Mental Health Crisis Support Services	2	61	37	1	101	2.4
Outpatient Mental Health Services	1	59	37	1	98	2.4
Literacy/Tutoring Support	0	51	25	3	79	2.4
Dental Services	2	61	31	8	102	2.4
Disability Services	0	57	35	4	96	2.4
Parenting Skill Programs/Resources	6	65	32	2	105	2.3
Emergency Shelter for Families	3	69	29	2	103	2.3
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Services	3	46	19	3	71	2.3
Job Training/Internships for Young Adults	4	56	24	2	86	2.3

Q6 – Needs Being Met						
Service	Meets No Needs	Meets Some Needs	Meets Most Needs	Meets All Needs	N	Mean
After-school Programs	0	69	28	2	99	2.3
Homeless Services	2	75	24	2	103	2.3
Support Services for 18-21 Year Olds	8	52	20	0	80	2.2
Mentoring Services	3	61	19	1	84	2.2
Childcare Services	2	75	24	0	101	2.2
Addiction Services	3	68	16	1	88	2.2
Inpatient Mental Health Services	7	62	22	2	93	2.2
Transportation Services	9	67	17	1	94	2.1
Low Income Housing Services	7	74	18	2	101	2.1
Violence/Drug Prevention for Young Adults	5	64	14	1	84	2.1
Transitional Housing for Older Youth	20	49	5	0	74	1.8

7. If you chose a response of "Meets No Needs" or "Meets Some Needs" in Question 6, please provide further explanation. For example: If you chose "Meets Some Needs" for Inpatient Mental Health Services, do you feel that the agencies offering these services are not providing a quality service or do you feel that the need for these services is greater than the ability of the agency(cies) to provide them?

Q7 – Reason Needs Not Met			
Service	Quality	Availability	N
Foster Care Services	11	27	38
Primary Healthcare Services	11	25	36
Childcare Services	14	58	72
Violence/Drug Prevention for Young Adults	11	51	62
After-school Programs	11	51	62
Mental Health Crisis Support Services	7	50	57

Q7 – Reason Needs Not Met			
Service	Quality	Availability	N
Low Income Housing Services	10	65	75
Mentoring Services	3	54	57
Parenting Skill Programs/Resources	8	59	67
Addiction Services	6	58	64
Outpatient Mental Health Services	5	52	57
Literacy/Tutoring Support	3	43	46
Job Training/Internships for Young Adults	5	48	53
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Services	5	39	44
Emergency Shelter for Families	5	62	67
Disability Services	4	48	52
Inpatient Mental Health Services	5	57	62
Homeless Services	7	61	68
Transportation Services	3	68	71
Transitional Housing for Older Youth	2	59	61
Support Services for 18-21 Year Olds	2	52	54
Dental Services	2	57	59
Organized Recreational Activities	2	39	41

8. On a scale of 1 to 4 (with 1 being “No competence” and 4 being “Full competence”, please rate the degree to which you feel that Frederick County’s child and family service system is culturally competent.

Q8 – Cultural Competency						
	No Competence	Limited Competence	Moderate Competence	Full Competence	N	Mean
Degree to which Frederick County’s service system is culturally competent	0	29	75	9	113	2.8

9. On a scale of 1 to 4 (with 1 being “no involvement” and 4 being “full involvement”, please rate the degree to which you feel that families are involved as decision-makers in Frederick County’s service system for children and families.

Q9– Family Involvement						
	No Competence	Limited Competence	Moderate Competence	Full Competence	N	Mean
Degree to which you feel that families are involved as decision-makers	6	41	56	10	113	2.6

10. Please choose from the answers below to complete the following sentence.
Incarceration has _____ on children and families in Frederick County?

Q10.1 – Impact of Incarceration		
Response	N	Percentage
A significant impact	93	80.9%
A slight impact	21	18.3%
No impact	1	0.9%
Total	115	100.0%

If “a significant impact” or “a slight impact” was chosen:

How has this problem changed over the past five years?

Q10.2 – Impact of Incarceration – Five-year Trend		
Response	N	Percentage
Remained the same	52	48.1%
Worsened	52	48.1%
Improved	4	3.7%
Total	108	100.0%

Are there sufficient programs or services available that help children and families of those who are incarcerated?

Q10.3 – Impact of Incarceration – Available Programs or Services		
Response	N	Percentage
Unsure	63	55.8%
No	44	38.9%
Yes	6	5.3%
Total	113	100.0%

What are the main impacts that incarceration has on children and families in Frederick County?

- The negative impacts that parental incarceration has on families and children mentioned included those associated with housing, morals, finances, emotional and mental health, and the stigma associated with having an incarcerated parent.

11. Please choose from the answers below to complete the following sentence.
Disconnected youth, those aged 16-24 who are neither working nor in school,
_____ for residents of Frederick County?

Q11.1 – Concern regarding Disconnected Youth		
Response	N	Percentage
Are a significant concern	84	74.3%
Are a slight concern	29	25.7%
Are not a concern	0	0.0%
Total	113	100.0%

If “a significant concern” or “a slight concern” was chosen:
How has this problem changed over the past five years?

Q11.2 - Disconnected Youth – Five-year Trend		
Response	N	Percentage
Worsened	58	53.7%
Remained the same	43	39.8%
Improved	7	6.5%
Total	108	100.0%

Are there sufficient programs or services available that help to reduce the number of disconnected youth?

Q11.3 – Disconnected Youth – Available Programs or Services		
Response	N	Percentage
Unsure	63	55.8%
No	39	34.5%
Yes	11	9.7%
Total	113	100.0%

Are there any other comments related to disconnected youth that you feel are important to include in this Community Needs Assessment?

- Responses include the need for more programs that are ran by individuals who can relate to these youth, the need for jobs that offer benefits and long-term employment possibilities for youth, the need for additional preventative programs related to substance abuse, and the need for the county to enhance partnerships with the schools to identify these individuals earlier.

12. Please choose from the answers below to complete the following sentence.
Childhood hunger is _____ in Frederick County?

Q12.1 – Problem of Childhood Hunger		
Response	N	Percentage
A slight problem	68	59.6%
A significant problem	45	39.5%
Not a problem	1	0.9%
Total	114	100.0%

If “a significant problem” or “a slight problem” was chosen:

How has this problem changed over the past five years?

Q12.2 - Childhood Hunger – Five-year Trend		
Response	N	Percentage
Remained the same	46	42.6%
Worsened	42	38.9%
Improved	20	18.5%
Total	108	100.0%

Are there sufficient programs or services available that help to reduce childhood hunger?

Q12.3 – Childhood Hunger – Available Programs or Services		
Response	N	Percentage
Unsure	45	40.5%
Yes	38	34.2%
No	28	25.2%
Total	111	100.0%

Are there any other comments related to childhood hunger that you feel are important to include in this Community Needs Assessment?

- Responses generally praised the existing programs for helping reduce childhood homelessness. However, the need to make the community aware of such programs, the need for improved access to healthy food options, and the need for either existing or new programs to expand weekend/summer access were mentioned.

13. Please choose from the answers below to complete the following sentence. Youth homelessness is _____ in Frederick County?

Q13.1 – Problem of Youth Homelessness		
Response	N	Percentage
A significant problem	53	50.0%
A slight problem	52	49.1%
Not a problem	1	0.9%
Total	106	100.0%

If “a significant problem” or “a slight problem” was chosen:
How has this problem changed over the past five years?

Q13.2 – Youth Homelessness – Five-year Trend		
Response	N	Percentage
Worsened	59	58.4%
Remained the same	35	34.7%
Improved	7	6.9%
Total	101	100.0%

Are there sufficient programs or services available that help to reduce youth homelessness?

Q13.3 – Youth Homelessness – Available Programs or Services		
Response	N	Percentage
Unsure	51	48.6%
No	45	42.9%
Yes	9	8.6%
Total	105	100.0%

Are there any other comments related to youth homelessness that you feel are important to include in this Community Needs Assessment?

- The need for a standard and comprehensive definition of homelessness was mentioned. Further, the need for additional shelters and transitional housing was mentioned as an area for improvement as was the need for more support from DSS and CPS.

14. Please choose from the answers below to complete the following sentence. Bullying/harassment/intimidation is _____ for the youth of Frederick County?

Q14.1 – Concern regarding Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation		
Response	N	Percentage
A significant issue/concern	90	81.8%
A slight issue/concern	17	15.5%
Not an issue/concern	3	2.7%
Total	110	100.0%

If “a significant issue/concern” or “a slight issue/concern” was chosen:
How has this problem changed over the past five years?

Q14.2 - Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation – Five-year Trend		
Response	N	Percentage
Worsened	68	64.8%
Remained the same	25	23.8%
Improved	12	11.4%
Total	105	100.0%

Are there sufficient programs or services available that help to reduce bullying/harassment/intimidation?

Q14.3 – Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation – Available Programs or Services		
Response	N	Percentage
No	52	48.6%
Unsure	42	39.3%
Yes	13	12.1%
Total	107	100.0%

Are there any other comments related to bullying/harassment/intimidation that you feel are important to include in this Community Needs Assessment?

- The need for schools to take a stronger stance on discouraging and handling incidents of bullying was a common theme among the comments submitted in response to this question. The association between bullying and social media and the lack of accountability again arose as frequently mentioned problems.

15. Are there any other problems or issues impacting the children and families of Frederick County that you feel should be addressed in this Community Needs Assessment?

- Responses varied greatly but included comments related to the need for inclusion of minorities and addressing the needs present in their communities, issues related to substance abuse, and the need for increased communication regarding existing resources.

APPENDIX 4 | EXISTING COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The following tables contain the name, city, and ZIP code of existing resources in Frederick County related to the following categories:

- Education
- Disability Services
- Vocational Rehab
- Family and Children Services
- Counseling
- Healthcare
- Homelessness
- Disconnected Youth
- After-school Programs
- Hunger
- Substance Abuse

Please note that some providers/resources may offer services that span across numerous categories.

Education		
Agency/Program	City	Zip Code
Arc of Frederick County, The	Frederick	21703
Asian American Center of Frederick	Frederick	21703
Boys and Girls Clubs of Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Community Agency School Services Program	Frederick	21701
Family Partnership of Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Family Service Foundation, Frederick	Frederick	21701
Frederick City Parks and Recreation	Frederick	21701
Frederick Community College	Frederick	21702
Frederick County Health Department, Community Health Services Division	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Health Department, Developmental Center	Frederick	21702
Frederick County Health Department, Maternal and Child Health Program	Frederick	21702
Frederick County Health Department, Women, Infants and Children Program	Frederick	21702

Education		
Agency/Program	City	Zip Code
Frederick County Judy Center	Frederick	21702
Frederick County Parks and Recreation	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Public Libraries	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Public Schools	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Public Schools, Special Education Programs.	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Virtual School	Frederick	21703
Freedom Center, The	Frederick	21701
Goodwill Industries, Workforce Development Program	Frederick	21701
Habitat for Humanity, Frederick - Affordable Land Trust	Frederick	21701
Habitat for Humanity, Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Interfaith Housing Alliance of Western Maryland	Frederick	21704
Jefferson School and Residential Treatment Center	Jefferson	21755
LGBTQ Youth Peer Support Group	Frederick	21701
Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick County	Frederick	21705
Prosperity Center	Frederick	21701
University of Maryland Extension, Frederick County	Frederick	21702
Way Station Camp Journey Respite Program	Frederick	21702
Workforce Development Center, Frederick County	Frederick	21703
YMCA of Frederick County Head Start	Frederick	21701
YMCA, Frederick County	Frederick	21701

Disability Services		
Agency Name	City	Zip Code
Arc of Frederick County, The	Frederick	21703
Autism Society of America, Frederick County Chapter	Buckeystown	21717
Division of Rehabilitation Services, Frederick County (DORS)	Frederick	21701

Disability Services		
Agency Name	City	Zip Code
Family Resource, Information and Education Network for Down Syndrome	Middletown	21769
Frederick County 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program	Thurmont	21788
Frederick County Department of Social Services, Temporary Disability Assistance Program	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Health Department, Developmental Center	Frederick	21702
Frederick County Health Department, Mental Health Services	Frederick	21702
Frederick County Public Schools, Special Education Programs.	Frederick	21701
Freedom Center, The	Frederick	21701
Goodwill Industries, Workforce Development Program	Frederick	21701
Jefferson School and Residential Treatment Center	Jefferson	21755
Maryland Access Point, Frederick County	Frederick	21702
Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick County	Frederick	21705
Mental Health Association of Frederick County, Walk In Behavioral Health Services	Frederick	21701
National Alliance on Mental Illness, Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Service Coordination, Frederick County	Frederick	21703
Way 2 Grow	Frederick	21701
Way Station Camp Journey Respite Program	Frederick	21702
Way Station, Frederick County	Frederick	21701

Vocational Rehab		
Agency Name	City	Zip Code
Arc of Frederick County, The	Frederick	21703
Division of Rehabilitation Services, Frederick County (DORS)	Frederick	21701
Freedom Center, The	Frederick	21701
Goodwill Industries, Workforce Development Program	Frederick	21701
Jefferson School and Residential Treatment Center	Jefferson	21755

Vocational Rehab		
Agency Name	City	Zip Code
Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick County	Frederick	21705
Way Station, Frederick County	Frederick	21701

Family & Children Services		
Agency Name	City	Zip Code
Advocates for Homeless Families	Frederick	21701
Asian American Center of Frederick	Frederick	21703
Autism Society of America, Frederick County Chapter	Buckeystown	21717
Birthright of Frederick	Frederick	21701
Brunswick Ecumenical Assistance Committee on Need	Brunswick	21716
Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick	Frederick	21701
Centro Hispano	Frederick	21703
Children of Incarcerated Parents, Interagency Work Group Frederick County, Maryland	Frederick	21701
Community Agency School Services Program	Frederick	21701
Families Plus!	Frederick	21701
Family Partnership of Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Family Partnership of Frederick County, Home Visiting Services	Frederick	21701
Family Partnership of Frederick County, Support Groups	Frederick	21701
Family Service Foundation, Frederick	Frederick	21701
Frederick City Parks and Recreation	Frederick	21701
Frederick Community Action Agency, Soup Kitchen	Frederick	21701
Frederick Community Action Agency, Summer Food Program	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Department of Housing	Frederick	21703
Frederick County Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Department of Social Services, Temporary Cash Assistance	Frederick	21701

Family & Children Services		
Agency Name	City	Zip Code
Frederick County Health Department, Community Health Services Division	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Health Department, Developmental Center	Frederick	21702
Frederick County Health Department, Maternal and Child Health Program	Frederick	21702
Frederick County Health Department, Mental Health Services	Frederick	21702
Frederick County Judy Center	Frederick	21702
Frederick County Mediation Center	Frederick	21702
Frederick County Office for Families and Children	Frederick	21704
Frederick County Parks and Recreation	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Public Libraries	Frederick	21701
Frederick Rescue Mission	Frederick	21701
Gender Variant Peer Support Group	Frederick	21701
Glade Valley Community Services	Walkersville	21793
Glade Valley Food Pantry	Walkersville	21793
Goodwill Industries, Workforce Development Program	Frederick	21701
Habitat for Humanity, Frederick - Affordable Land Trust	Frederick	21701
Habitat for Humanity, Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Heartly House	Frederick	21705
Hospice of Frederick County	Frederick	21702
Housing Authority, City of Frederick	Frederick	21701
Infants and Toddlers Program, Frederick County	Frederick	21702
Institute for Family Centered Services, Frederick County	Frederick	21704
Interfaith Housing Alliance of Western Maryland	Frederick	21704
Jefferson Food Bank	Jefferson	21755
Jefferson School and Residential Treatment Center	Jefferson	21755
Knoxville Food Pantry	Knoxville	21758
Legal Aid Bureau, Midwestern Maryland Office	Frederick	21701

Family & Children Services		
Agency Name	City	Zip Code
LGBTQ Youth Peer Support Group	Frederick	21701
Maryland Access Point, Frederick County	Frederick	21702
Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, Frederick Office	Frederick	21701
Mental Health Association of Frederick County, Hotline / 211 Call Center	Frederick	21701
Mental Health Association of Frederick County, Partnership for Emotionally Resilient Kids	Frederick	21701
Mental Health Association of Frederick County, Supervised Visitation and Monitored Transfer	Frederick	21701
Mental Health Association of Frederick County, Systems Navigation	Frederick	21701
Mental Health Association of Frederick County, Court Appointed Special Advocate	Frederick	21701
Mental Health Association of Frederick County, Healthy Families	Frederick	21701
Mental Health Association of Frederick County, Walk In Behavioral Health Services	Frederick	21701
Mental Health Association of Frederick County, Youth Mental Health First Aide	Frederick	21701
Middletown Food Pantry	Middletown	21769
Mission of Mercy, Faith Baptist Church	Knoxville	21758
Mission of Mercy, Frederick Church of the Brethren	Frederick	21701
Mobile Crisis Services, Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Mt. Airy Net, Food Pantry	Mount Airy	21771
National Alliance on Mental Illness, Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Outreach for the Needy	Union Bridge	21791
Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Central Maryland	Knoxville	21758
Partners for Success, Frederick County	Frederick	21702
People Helping People, Middletown Valley	Middletown	21769
Planned Parenthood of Maryland, Frederick County Clinic	Frederick	21702
Prosperity Center	Frederick	21701
Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs	Frederick	21701
Salvation Army, Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Second Street & Hope	Frederick	21701

Family & Children Services		
Agency Name	City	Zip Code
Service Coordination, Frederick County	Frederick	21703
Seton Center Outreach Program	Emmitsburg	21727
Share Food Network, Frederick County	Landover	20785
Special Olympics, Frederick County	Frederick	21702
Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership	Frederick	21702
St. Joseph's Ministries / St. Catherine's Neighborhood	Emmitsburg	21727
St. Vincent dePaul Society, Frederick County	Frederick	21701
The Frederick Center	Frederick	21701
Thurmont Food Pantry	Thurmont	21788
Thurmont Lions Club Vision Screening Program	Thurmont	21788
University of Maryland Extension, Frederick County	Frederick	21702
Way 2 Grow	Frederick	21701
Way Station Camp Journey Respite Program	Frederick	21702
Way Station of Frederick County, Family Preservation Program	Frederick	21701
Way Station, Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Workforce Development Center, Frederick County	Frederick	21703
YMCA of Frederick County Head Start	Frederick	21701
YMCA, Frederick County	Frederick	21701

Counseling		
Agency/Name	City	Zip Code
Associated Family Counseling	Frederick	21702
Behavioral Health Partners of Frederick	Frederick	21701
Blue Ridge Behavioral Health Services	Frederick	21702
Brook Lane Outpatient Services, Frederick	Frederick	21703
Brook Lane, Partial Hospitalization Program for Children and Adolescents (Frederick)	Frederick	21703

Counseling		
Agency/Name	City	Zip Code
Catoctin Counseling Center	Thurmont	21788
Center for Mind-Body Therapies	Frederick	21701
Creative Therapeutic Connections	Frederick	21701
Crossroads Centers, Frederick	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Health Department, Behavioral Health Services	Frederick	21702
Jane E. Sachs, JD, PH.D	Frederick	21701
Jill Cody MA, LCPC	Frederick	21702
John P. Farrell, Ph.D. and Associates	Frederick	21703
Linganore Counseling and Wellness, LLC	New Market	21774
Lynda Sowbel, LCSW-C, PHD	Frederick	21701
Marriage Resource Center of Frederick County	Walkersville	21793
MedPsych Health Services	Frederick	21704
Mental Health Association of Frederick County, Counseling Services	Frederick	21701
Michael Southers, LGPC	Frederick	21701
Nina M. Anzalone, LCSW-C, PA	Frederick	21701
Potomac Case Management Services, Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Psychotherapy Services	Frederick	21701
Salt and Light Counseling	Frederick	21701
Serenity Treatment Center	Frederick	21701
Trinity Pastoral Counseling Center	Frederick	21701
Victoria Bolton, LCSW-C	Frederick	21701
Villa Maria Behavioral Health of Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Vital Sources Psychological Services	Frederick	21701

Healthcare		
Agency Name	City	Zip Code
Frederick Community Action Agency, Access to Care	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Department of Social Services, Medical Assistance	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Health Department, Developmental Center	Frederick	21702
Frederick County Health Department, School Health Division	Frederick	21702
Frederick County Health Department, Seasonal Flu Clinic	Frederick	21702
Frederick Memorial Hospital	Frederick	21701
Infants and Toddlers Program, Frederick County	Frederick	21702
Maryland Children's Health Program, Frederick County	Frederick	21702
Mission of Mercy, Faith Baptist Church	Knoxville	21758
Mission of Mercy, Frederick Church of the Brethren	Frederick	21701
Mobile Crisis Services, Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Thurmont Lions Club Vision Screening Program	Thurmont	21788

Homeless		
Agency Name	City	Zip Code
Advocates for Homeless Families	Frederick	21701
Brunswick Ecumenical Assistance Committee on Need	Brunswick	21716
Community Agency School Services Program	Frederick	21701
Frederick Community Action Agency, Soup Kitchen	Frederick	21701
Frederick Community Action Agency, Summer Food Program	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Department of Housing	Frederick	21703
Frederick County Public Schools	Frederick	21701
Frederick Rescue Mission	Frederick	21701
Glade Valley Community Services	Walkersville	21793
Glade Valley Food Pantry	Walkersville	21793
Heartly House	Frederick	21705

Homeless		
Agency Name	City	Zip Code
Housing Authority, City of Frederick	Frederick	21701
Jefferson Food Bank	Jefferson	21755
Knoxville Food Pantry	Knoxville	21758
Middletown Food Pantry	Middletown	21769
Mission of Mercy, Faith Baptist Church	Knoxville	21758
Mission of Mercy, Frederick Church of the Brethren	Frederick	21701
Mobile Crisis Services, Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Mt. Airy Net, Food Pantry	Mount Airy	21771
Outreach for the Needy	Union Bridge	21791
Partners for Success, Frederick County	Frederick	21702
People Helping People, Middletown Valley	Middletown	21769
Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs	Frederick	21701
Salvation Army, Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Second Street & Hope	Frederick	21701
Seton Center Outreach Program	Emmitsburg	21727
Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership	Frederick	21702
St. Joseph's Ministries / St. Catherine's Neighborhood	Emmitsburg	21727
Thurmont Food Pantry	Thurmont	21788

Disconnected Youth		
Agency Name	City	Zip Code
Family Partnership of Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Frederick Community Action Agency, Summer Food Program	Frederick	21701
Institute for Family Centered Services, Frederick County	Frederick	21704
Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, Frederick Office	Frederick	21701

After School		
Agency name	City	Zip Code
Boys and Girls Clubs of Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Frederick City Parks and Recreation	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Parks and Recreation	Frederick	21701
Prosperity Center	Frederick	21701
University of Maryland Extension, Frederick County	Frederick	21702
YMCA, Frederick County	Frederick	21701

Hunger		
Agency Name	City	Zip Code
Brunswick Ecumenical Assistance Committee on Need	Brunswick	21716
Frederick Community Action Agency, Soup Kitchen	Frederick	21701
Frederick Community Action Agency, Summer Food Program	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Department of Social Services, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Health Department, Women, Infants and Children Program	Frederick	21702
Frederick County Parks and Recreation	Frederick	21701
Frederick County Public Schools	Frederick	21701
Frederick Rescue Mission	Frederick	21701
Glade Valley Food Pantry	Walkersville	21793
Infants and Toddlers Program, Frederick County	Frederick	21702
Jefferson Food Bank	Jefferson	21755
Knoxville Food Pantry	Knoxville	21758
Middletown Food Pantry	Middletown	21769
Mt. Airy Net, Food Pantry	Mount Airy	21771
Outreach for the Needy	Union Bridge	21791
People Helping People, Middletown Valley	Middletown	21769

Hunger		
Agency Name	City	Zip Code
Salvation Army, Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Second Street & Hope	Frederick	21701
Seton Center Outreach Program	Emmitsburg	21727
Share Food Network, Frederick County	Landover	20785
St. Joseph's Ministries / St. Catherine's Neighborhood	Emmitsburg	21727
Thurmont Food Pantry	Thurmont	21788

Substance Abuse		
Agency Name	City	Zip Code
Frederick County Health Department, On the Mark Adolescent Clubhouse	Frederick	21702
Frederick County Health Department, Substance Abuse Prevention Services	Frederick	21701
Frederick County, Underage Party Tip Hotline	Frederick	21702
Frederick Institute	Frederick	21704
Mountain Manor Treatment Center, Frederick	Frederick	21701
Nar-Anon Family Groups, Frederick County	Frederick	21701
Narcotics Anonymous, Frederick County	Frederick	21705
Project Hope, Frederick County	Thurmont	21788